

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS • STEFANO CASELLI • MARTE GRACIA

# INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

MARVEL

#3





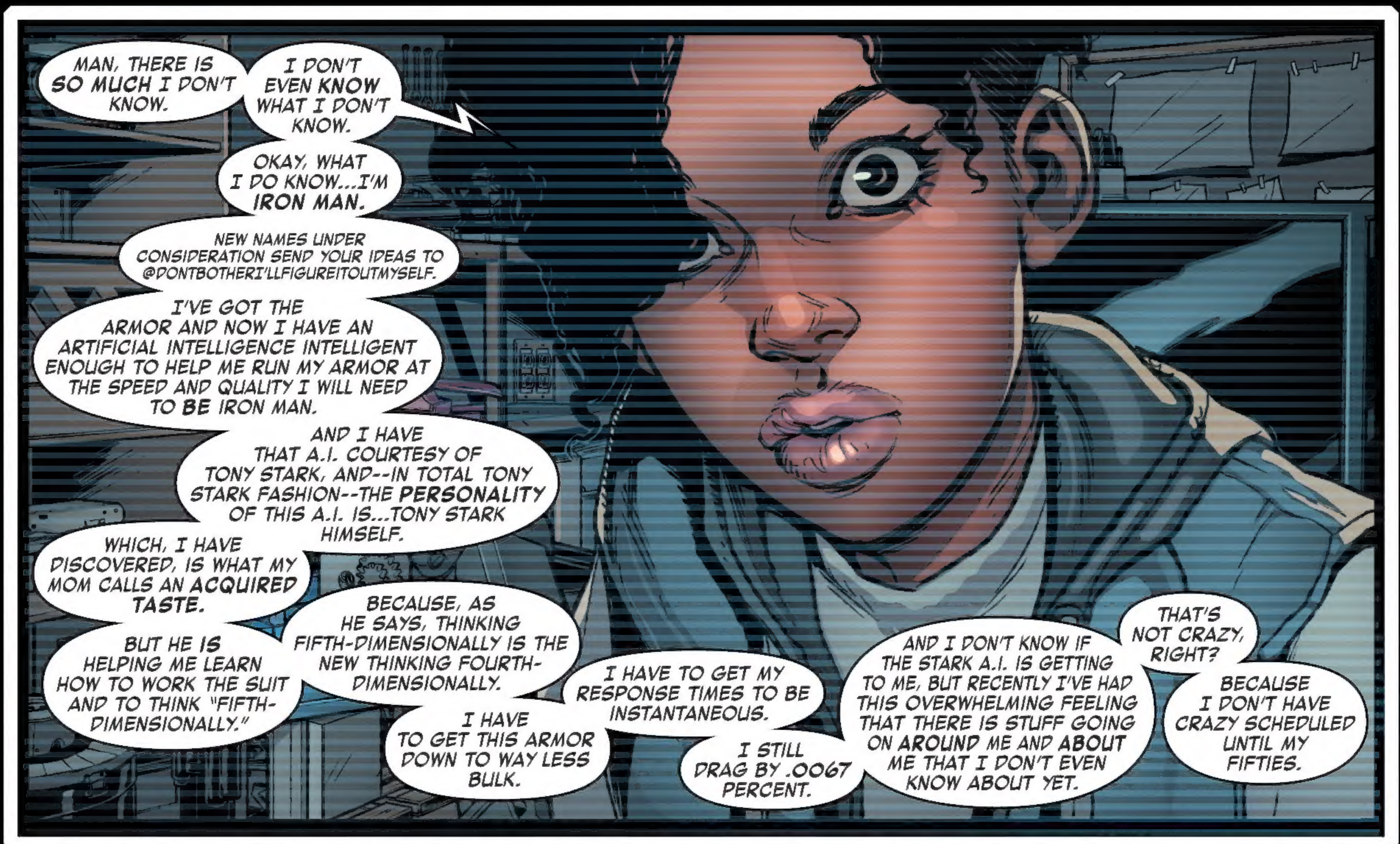
# INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

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**IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY**



# STARK HEADQUARTERS.

IN COMPANY NEWS, STARK (STRK) SHARES ROSE SOME FROM AN ALL-TIME LOW. INSIDERS SAY TONY STARK'S ABSENCE IS BEING FELT BUT THAT THE COMPANY HE CREATED IS LEARNING TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET.

OH, NO!  
THIS IS NOT  
HAPPENING!

NO.

I AM  
NOT TALKING TO A  
GLORIFIED ASSISTANT  
AND I'M **CERTAINLY**  
NOT TALKING TO A  
HOLOGRAM.

MR.  
LYNCH, IF  
I--

I AM THE  
C.E.O. OF THIS  
COMPANY AND I **WILL**  
NOT BE HOODWINKED  
BY **YOU TWO**.

TONY STARK  
IS NO LONGER  
RUNNING THE COMPANY  
BECAUSE, AS I HAVE  
BEEN TOLD BY BOTH  
DOCTORS AND LAWYERS,  
HE IS NO LONGER  
ABLE TO.

IS  
HE?

NOT IN THE  
SENSE YOU MEAN,  
MR. LYNCH.

NO.

TRUTH!  
THANK YOU,  
FRIDAY.

NOW DO YOU AGREE THAT WITH MR.  
STARK **UNABLE** TO RUN THIS COMPANY,  
THERE ARE CERTAIN PROTOCOLS  
IN PLACE?

THAT THE  
BOARD IS AUTHORIZED  
TO **TAKE OVER**  
AND--

IF YOU'LL  
LET ME  
EXPLAIN.

MARY JANE, THOUGH  
I WILL ALWAYS HOLD  
YOUR **SPORTS ILLUSTRATED**  
PHOTO SPREADS CLOSE  
TO MY HEART...

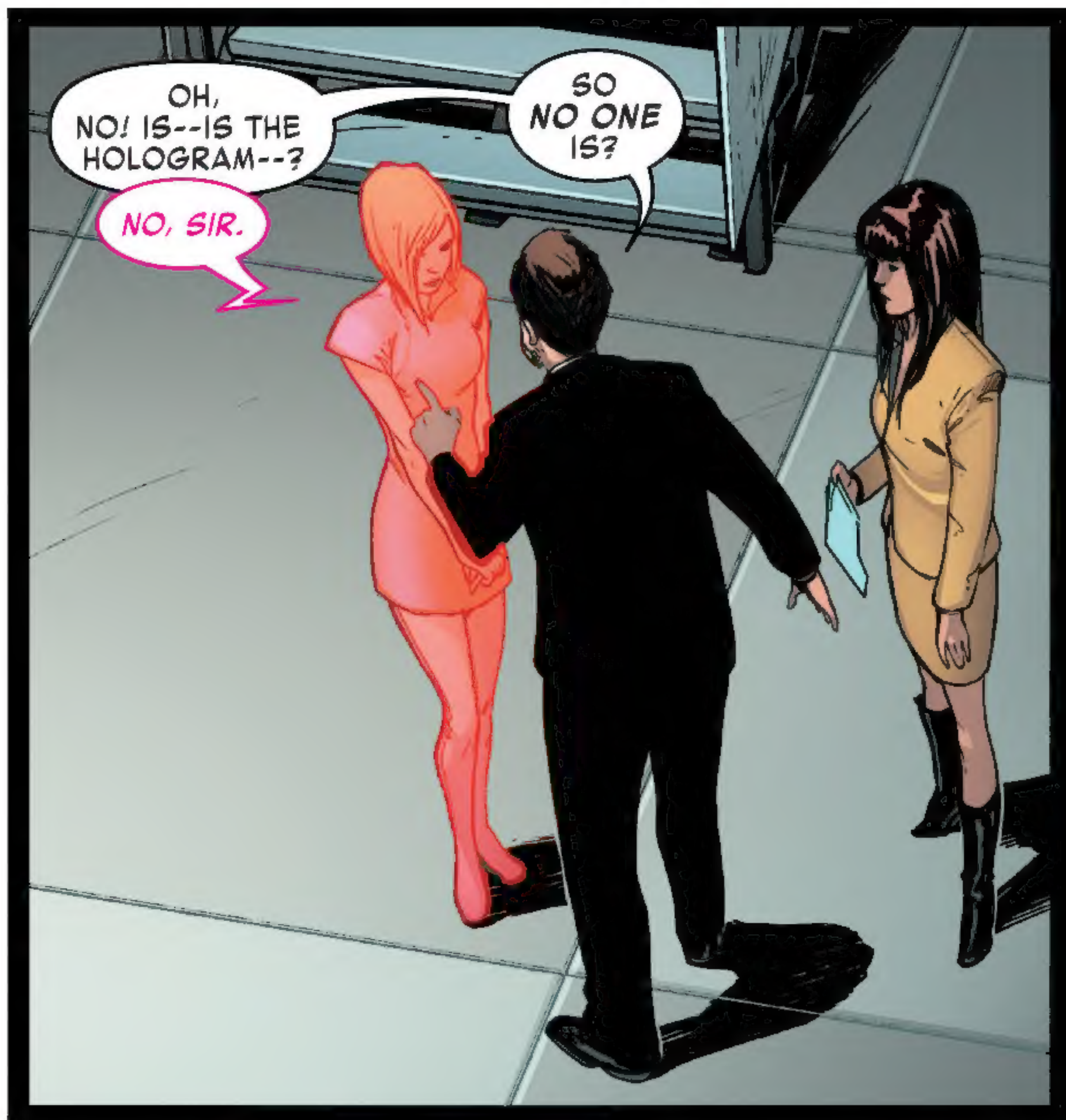
...THERE IS  
NO WAY IN HELL  
YOU ARE GOING TO  
BE ALLOWED TO RUN  
THIS COMPANY FOR  
**ONE SECOND**  
LONGER.

I'M NOT  
RUNNING THE  
COMPANY...

...SIR.

THEN  
WHO IS?

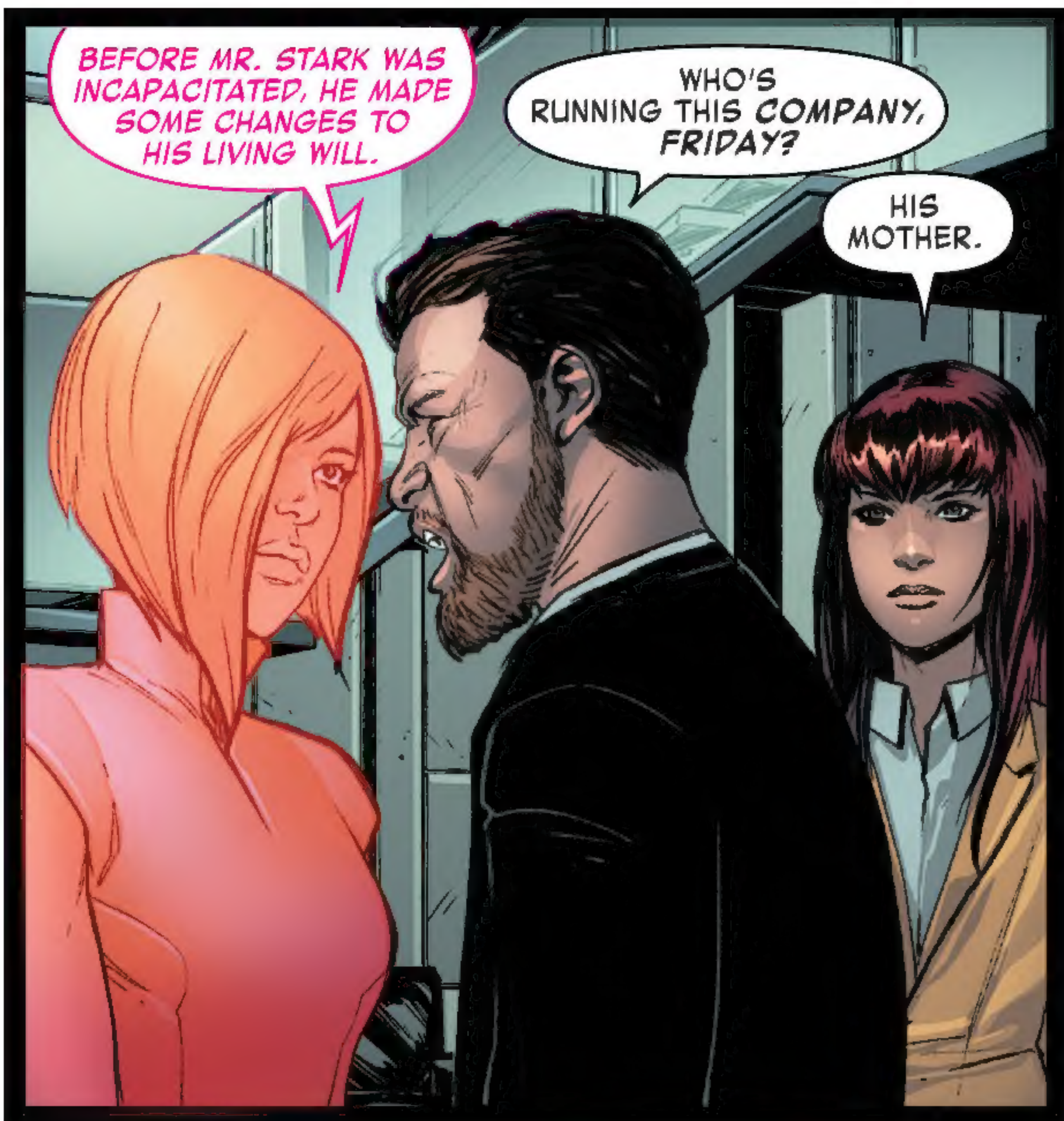




OH, NO! IS--IS THE HOLOGRAM--?

NO, SIR.

SO NO ONE IS?



BEFORE MR. STARK WAS INCAPACITATED, HE MADE SOME CHANGES TO HIS LIVING WILL.

WHO'S RUNNING THIS COMPANY, FRIDAY?

HIS MOTHER.



TONY STARK'S MOTHER WAS NAMED MARIA AND SHE DIED YEARS AGO.

FUNNY THING, THOUGH, TONY WAS ADOPTED.

MARIA WAS HIS ADOPTED MOTHER.



HE RECENTLY FOUND HIS BIOLOGICAL MOTHER.

SINCE WHEN?

AND GAVE HER THE "POWER OF ATTORNEY" IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

SINCE WHEN?



SINCE WHEN?!

WE REALLY SHOULD PUT OUT A NEWSLETTER MORE OFTEN.

SO WHO IS RUNNING THIS COMPANY?!



HER NAME IS AMANDA ARMSTRONG.





I DON'T  
KNOW WHO  
THAT IS.

AMANDA  
ARMSTRONG IS  
TONY'S BIOLOGICAL  
MOTHER.

DID YOU  
NOT CATCH  
THAT?

SHE'S  
WAITING TO  
MEET YOU.

SHE'S  
HERE?

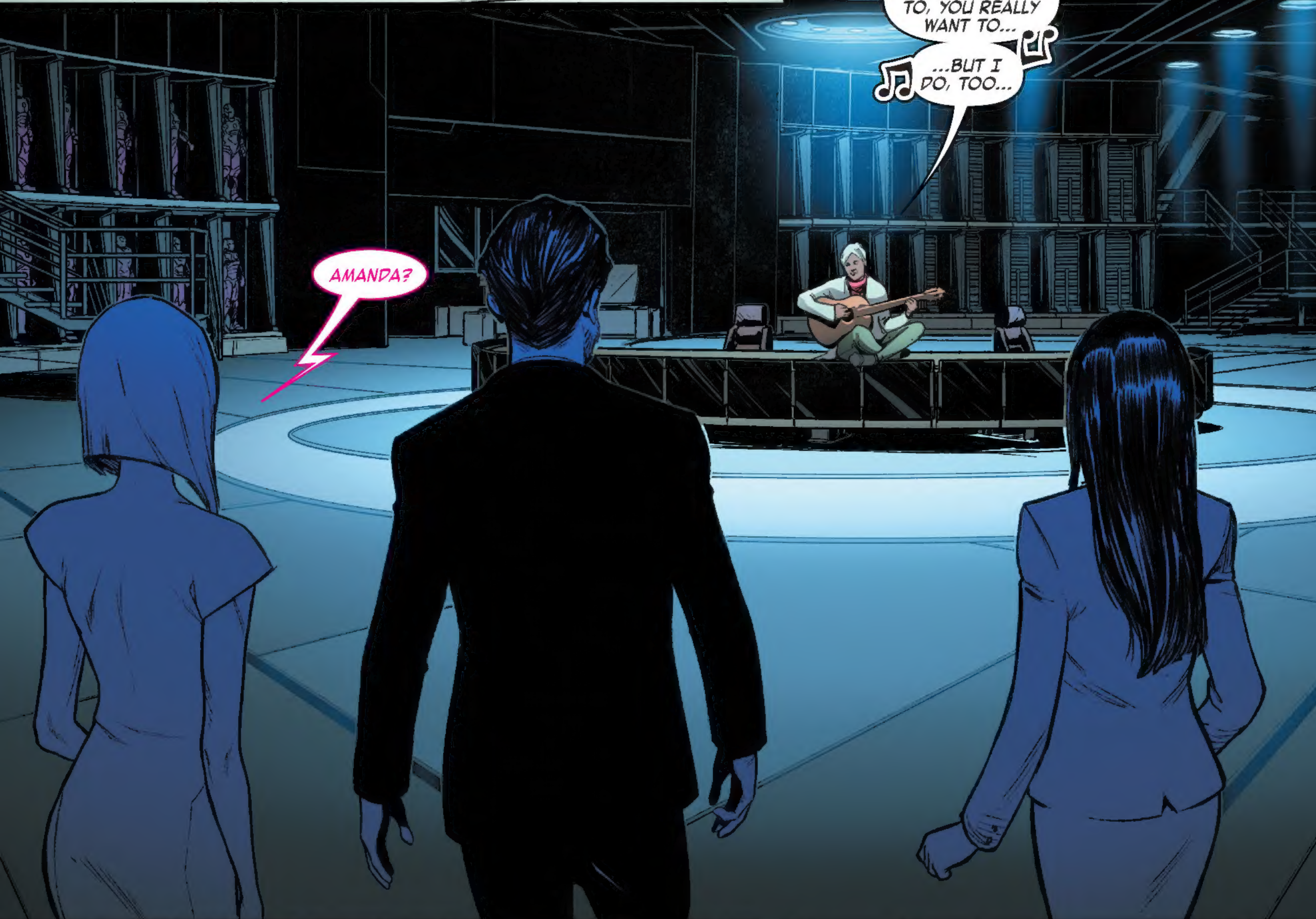
IN THE  
LAB.



IN THE  
LAB?!

YOU  
HAVE TO HAVE TOP  
SECURITY CLEARANCES  
TO GET INTO THIS  
LAB.

YES,  
SIR.



AMANDA?

PP YOU KNOW  
YOU REALLY WANT  
TO, YOU REALLY  
WANT TO...

PP ...BUT I  
DO, TOO...



AH, MR.  
LYNCH.

THE  
ACOUSTICS IN  
HERE ARE INSANE.  
I MIGHT HAVE  
TO RECORD  
HERE.

WHY--WHY  
DO YOU LOOK  
FAMILIAR?

OH, UH, YOU  
PROBABLY KNOW  
ME AS...AMANDA  
STRONG.

STRONG?

THAT'S  
MY...STAGE  
NAME.



OH  
@#\*@\$#!

OH MY  
GOD!

I'M--I'M--  
I'M A HUGE  
FAN.

UH,  
WHY ARE YOU  
HERE?

OH,  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE.









WOW!

THAT WAS FUN.

I LOVE YOU!

THAT-- THAT WAS INSPIRING.



I'VE BEEN IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY SINCE THE EIGHTIES.

THIS IS NOTHING.

OKAY, SO THAT BRAVADO ASIDE, FRIDAY, YOU CAN RUN THIS PLACE, RIGHT?



I'VE BEEN DOING IT EVERY SINGLE SECOND OF EVERY DAY SINCE I WAS CREATED.

SO YOU GOT THIS?

IT'S GOT.

CAN YOU FIX WHAT'S BROKEN AROUND HERE?

ARE YOU EMPOWERED TO GET THIS PLACE CRACKLING AGAIN?

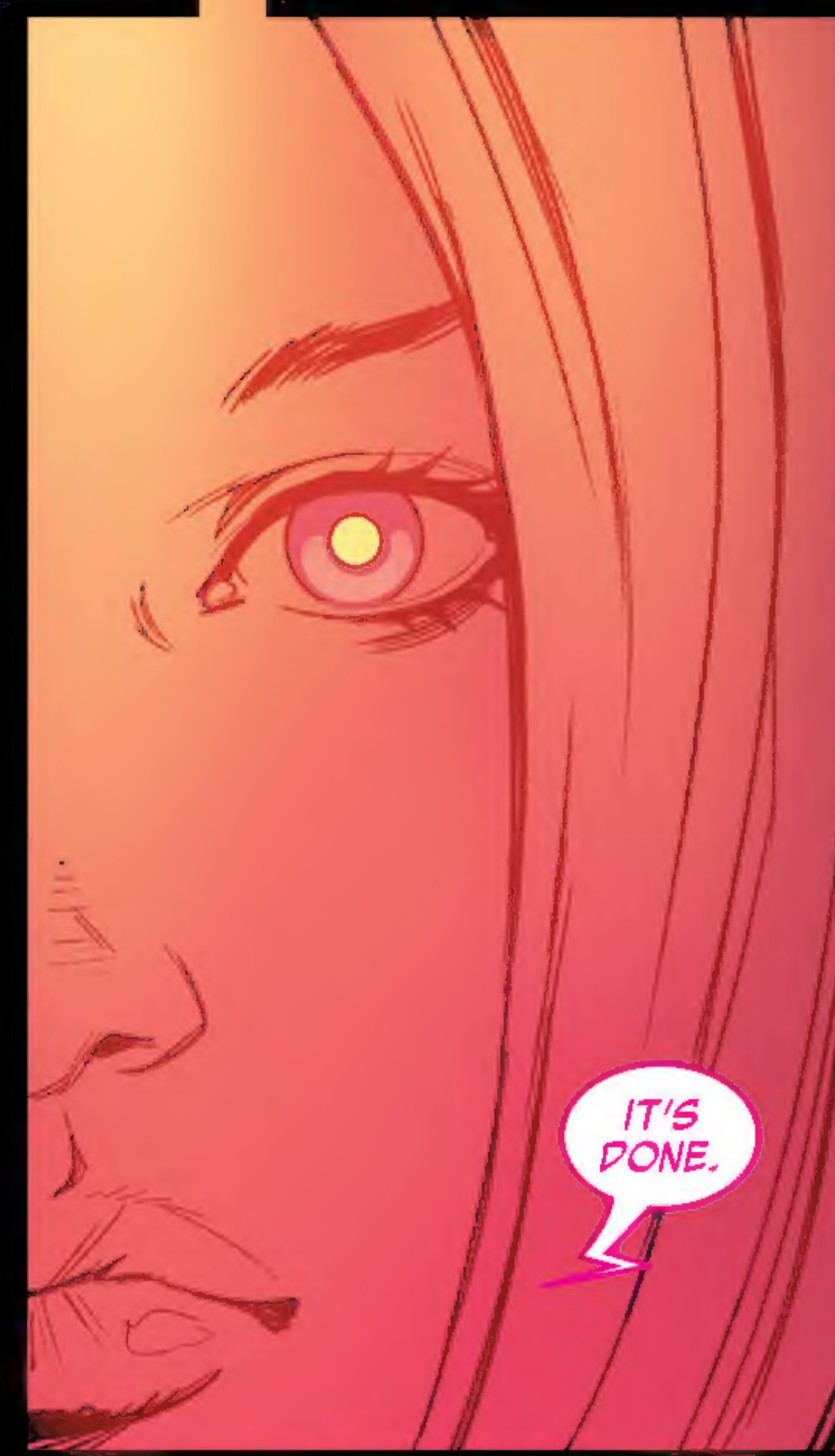


ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TELL ME TO.

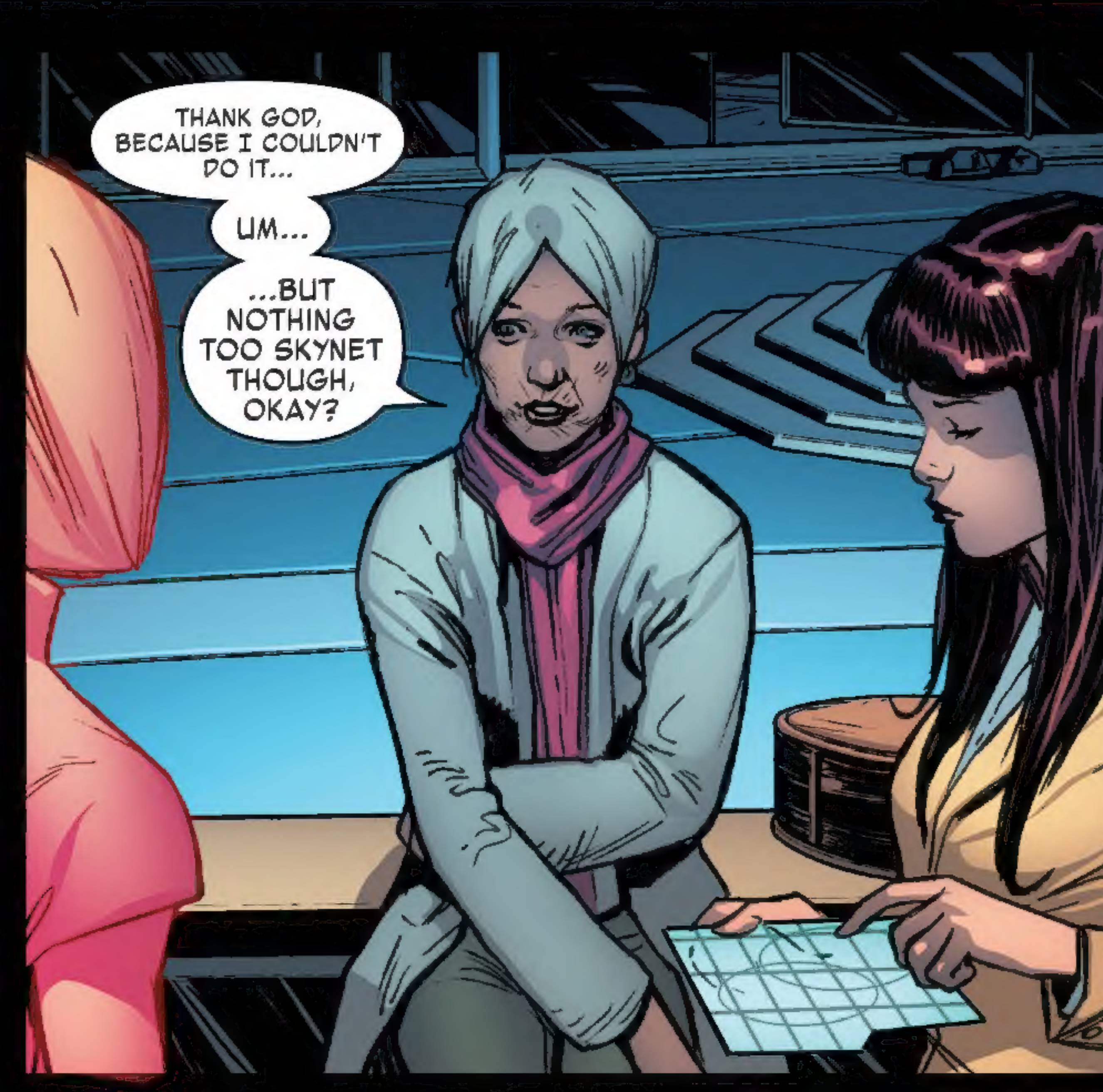
AND IN YOUR NAME I WILL DO JUST THAT.



THE ORDER IS GIVEN.



IT'S DONE.



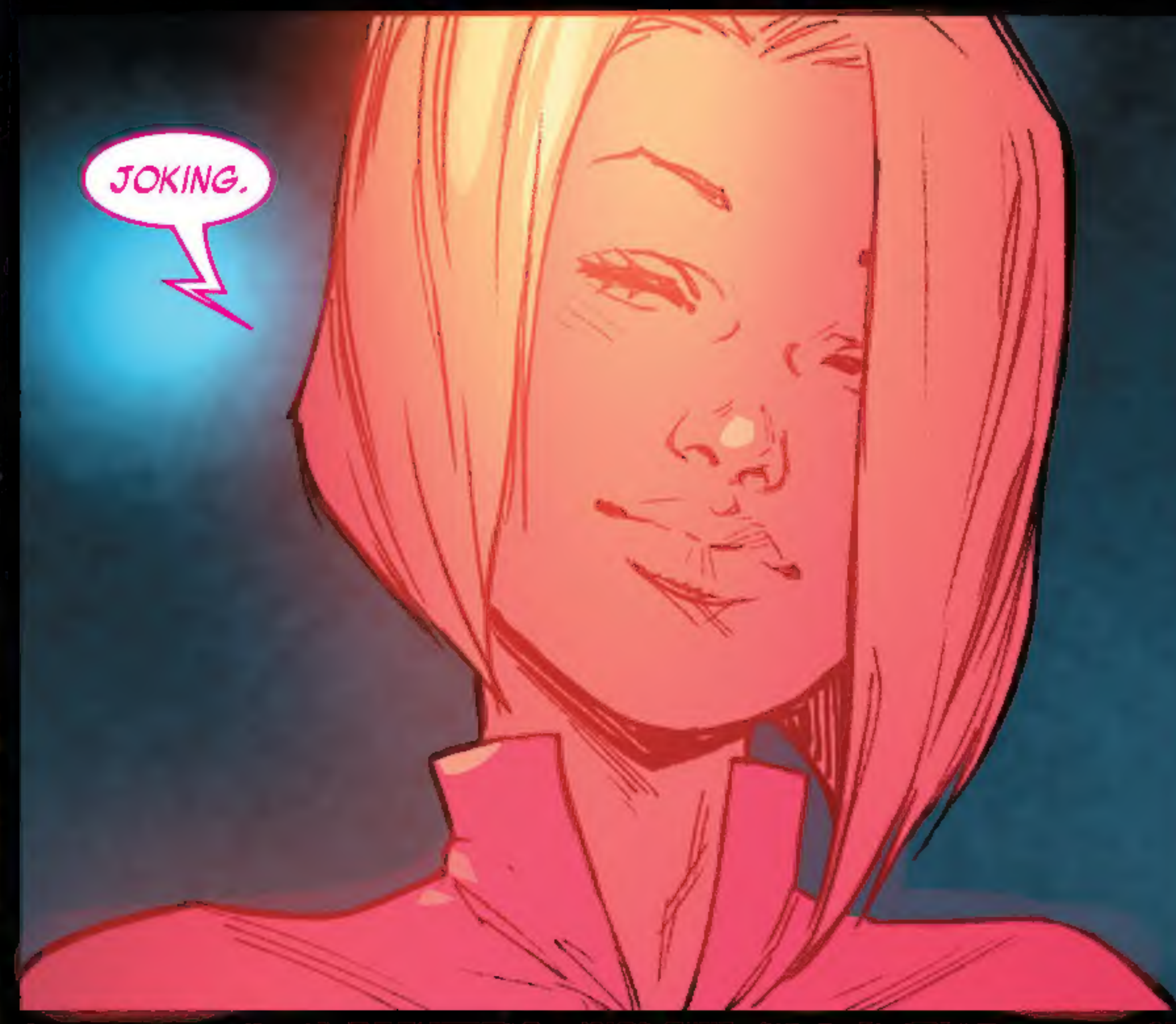
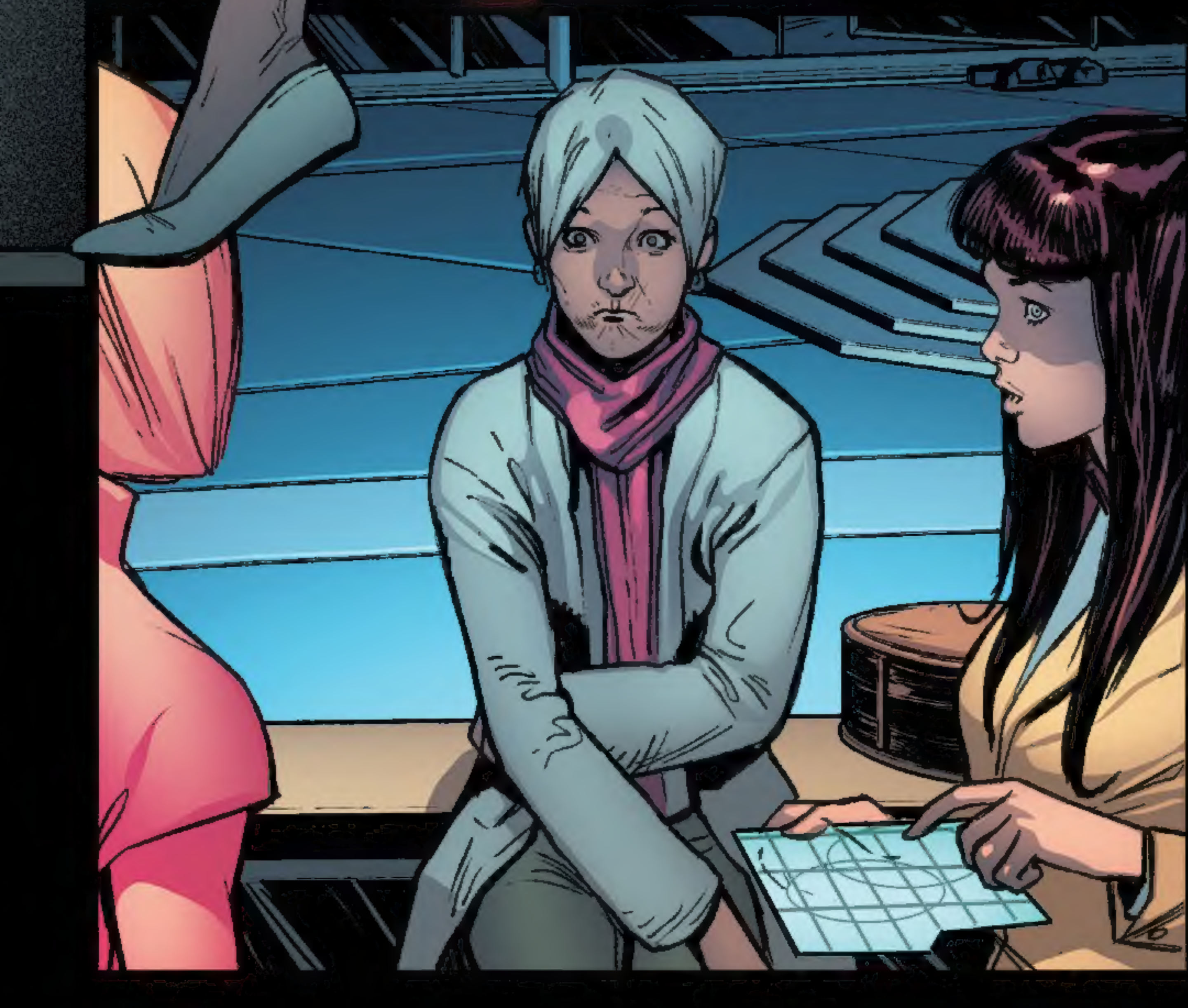
THANK GOD, BECAUSE I COULDN'T DO IT...

UM...

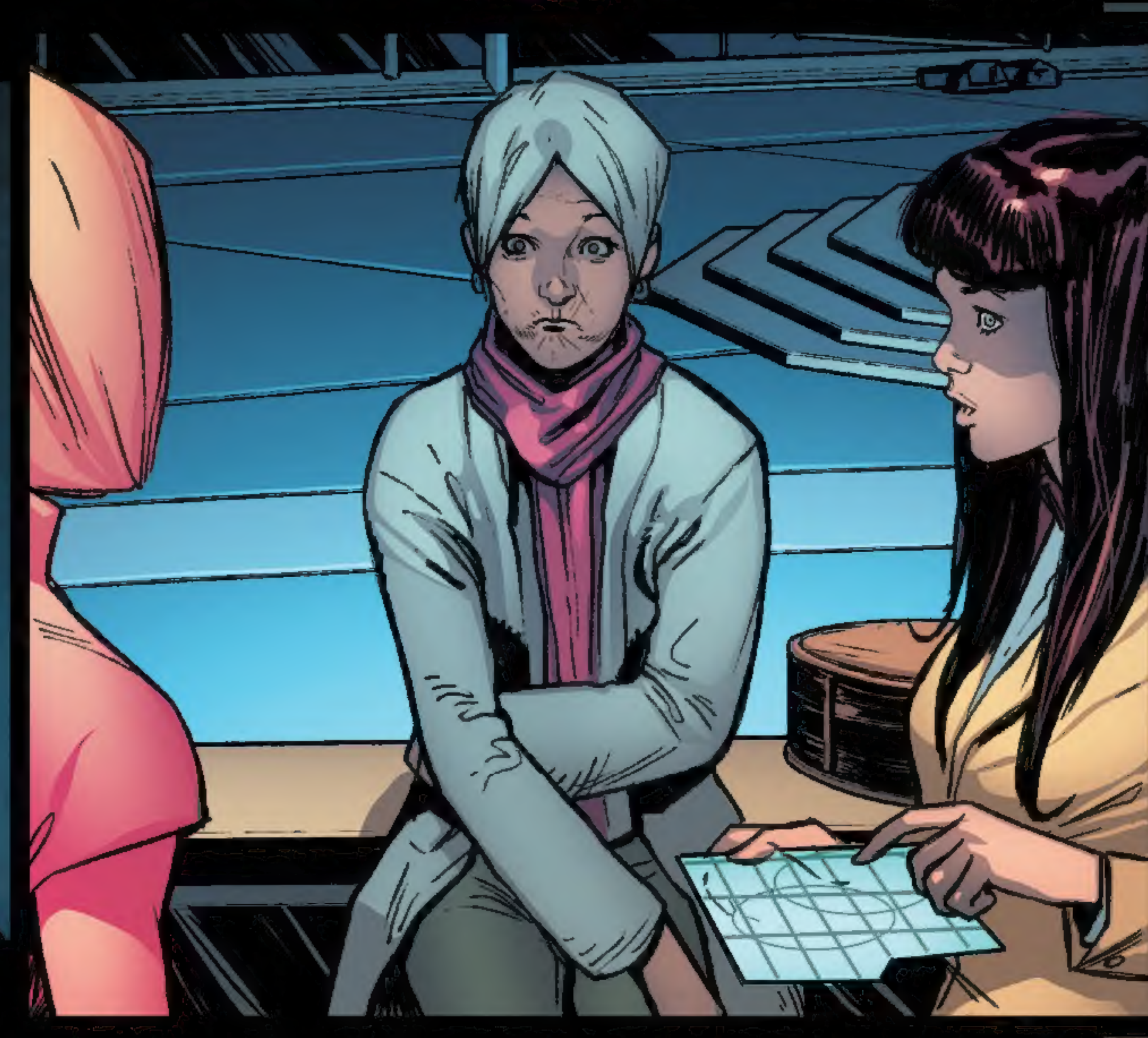
...BUT NOTHING TOO SKYNET THOUGH, OKAY?



THAT MOVIE IS INSPIRING...



JOKING.



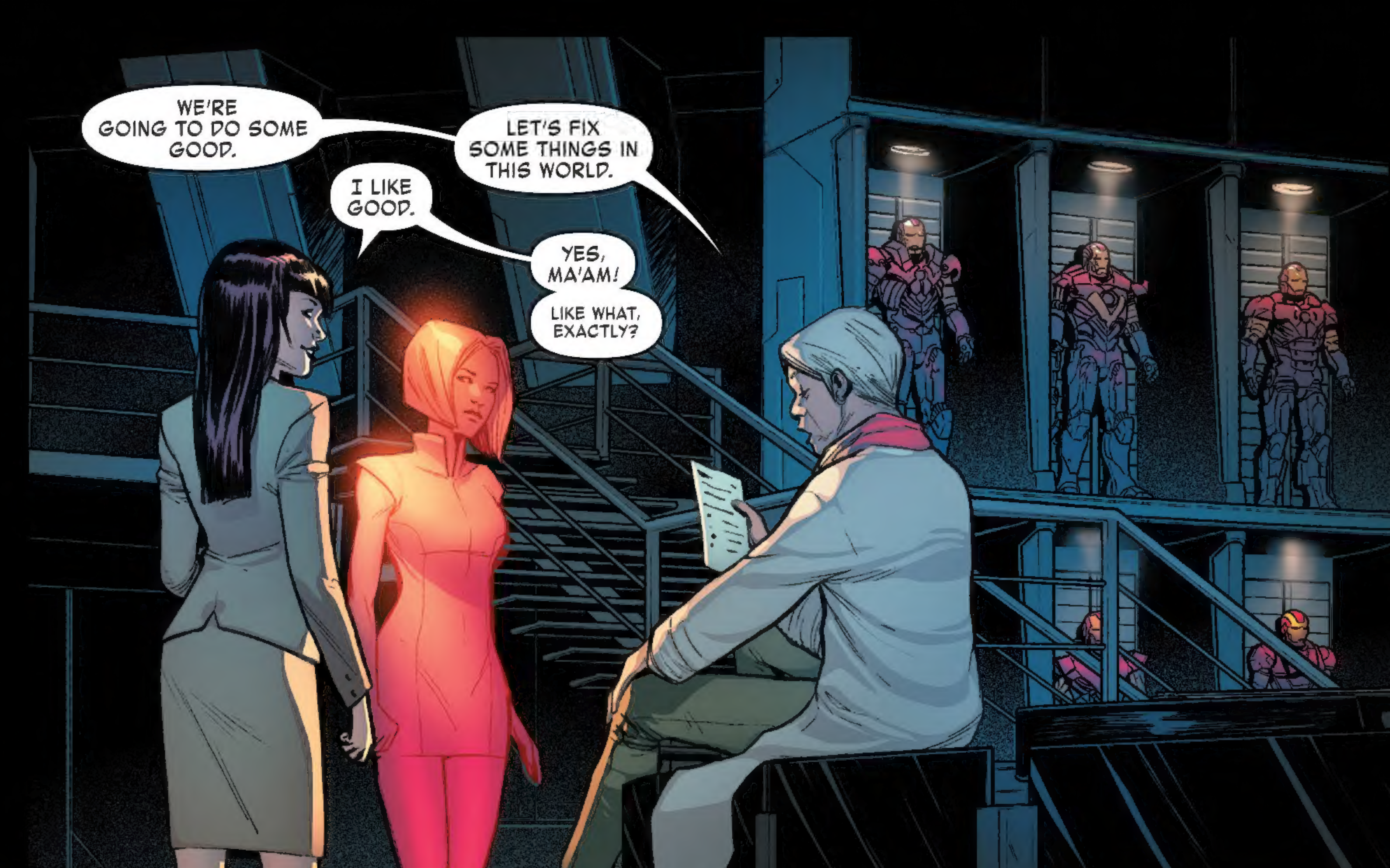
AND MEANWHILE, MS. WATSON, YOU AND I--

YOU'RE KEEPING ME ON BOARD?

YOU AND I ARE GOING TO SPEND SOME OF MY SON'S MONEY.

MA'AM?





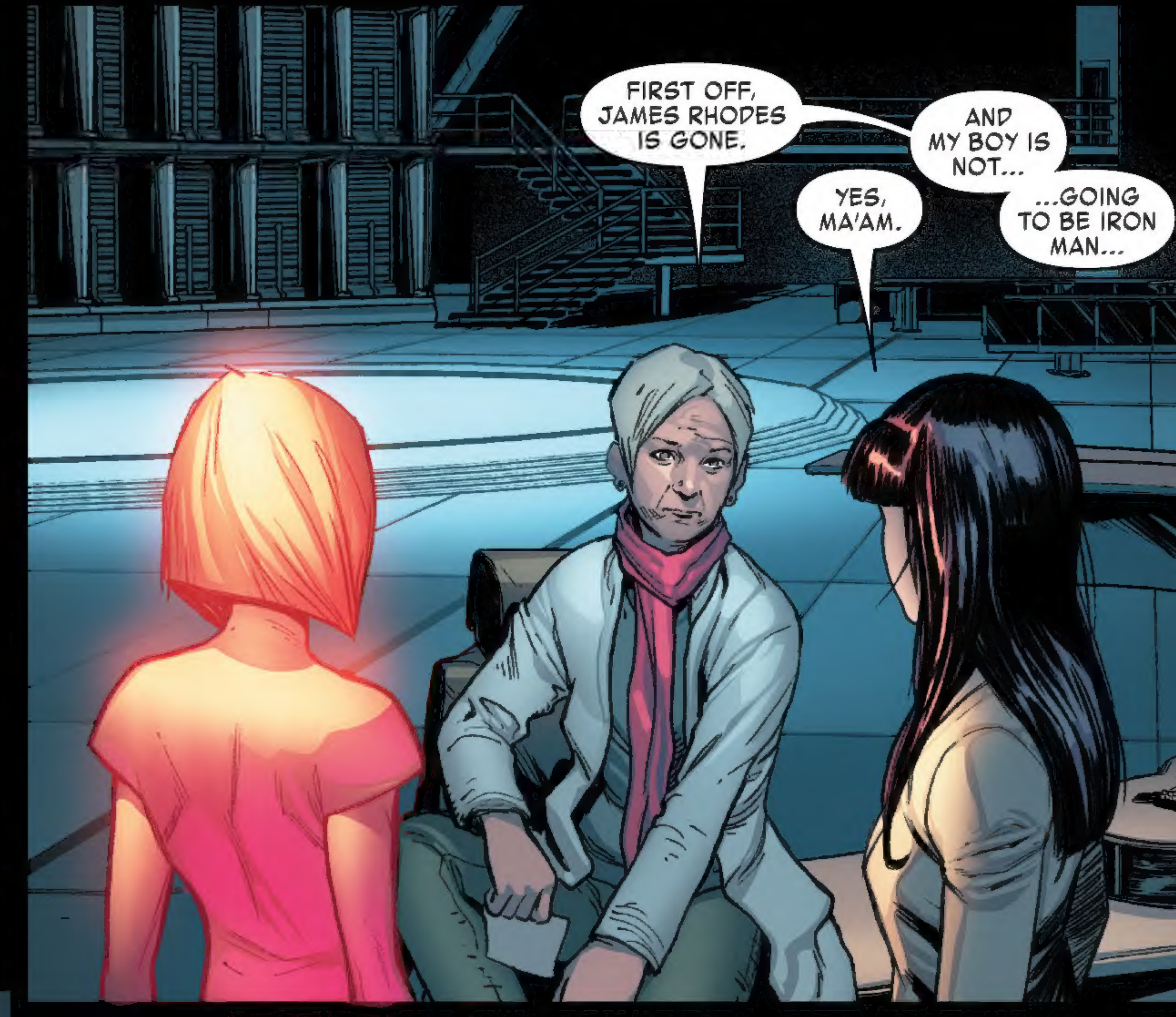
WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME GOOD.

I LIKE GOOD.

LET'S FIX SOME THINGS IN THIS WORLD.

YES, MA'AM!

LIKE WHAT, EXACTLY?

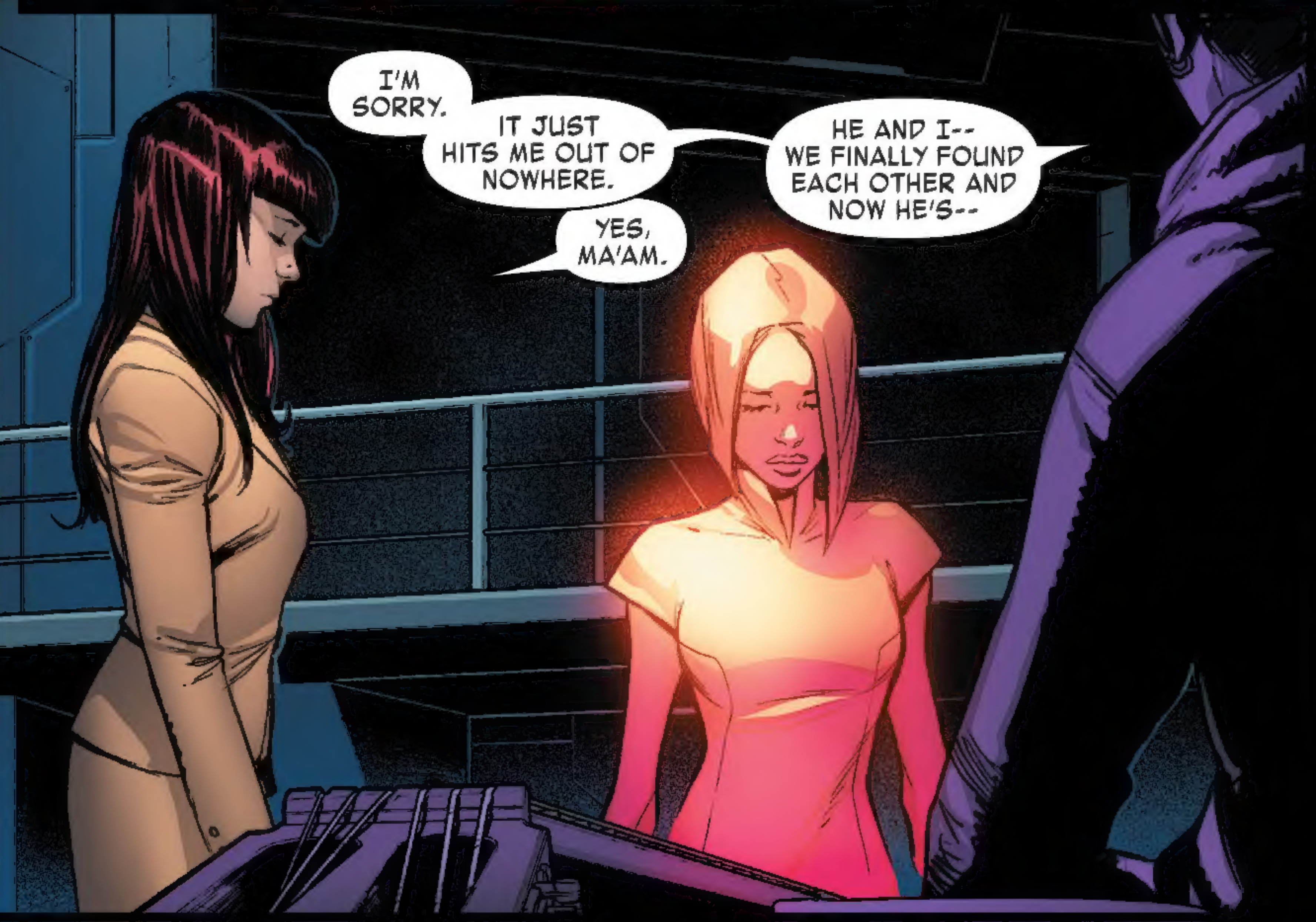


FIRST OFF, JAMES RHODES IS GONE.

YES, MA'AM.

AND MY BOY IS NOT...

...GOING TO BE IRON MAN...



I'M SORRY.

IT JUST HITS ME OUT OF NOWHERE.

YES, MA'AM.

HE AND I-- WE FINALLY FOUND EACH OTHER AND NOW HE'S--



MY POINT IS...

DOES THE LACK OF "IRON" PEOPLE IN THE WORLD...?

IS THIS SOMETHING WE CAN FIX?

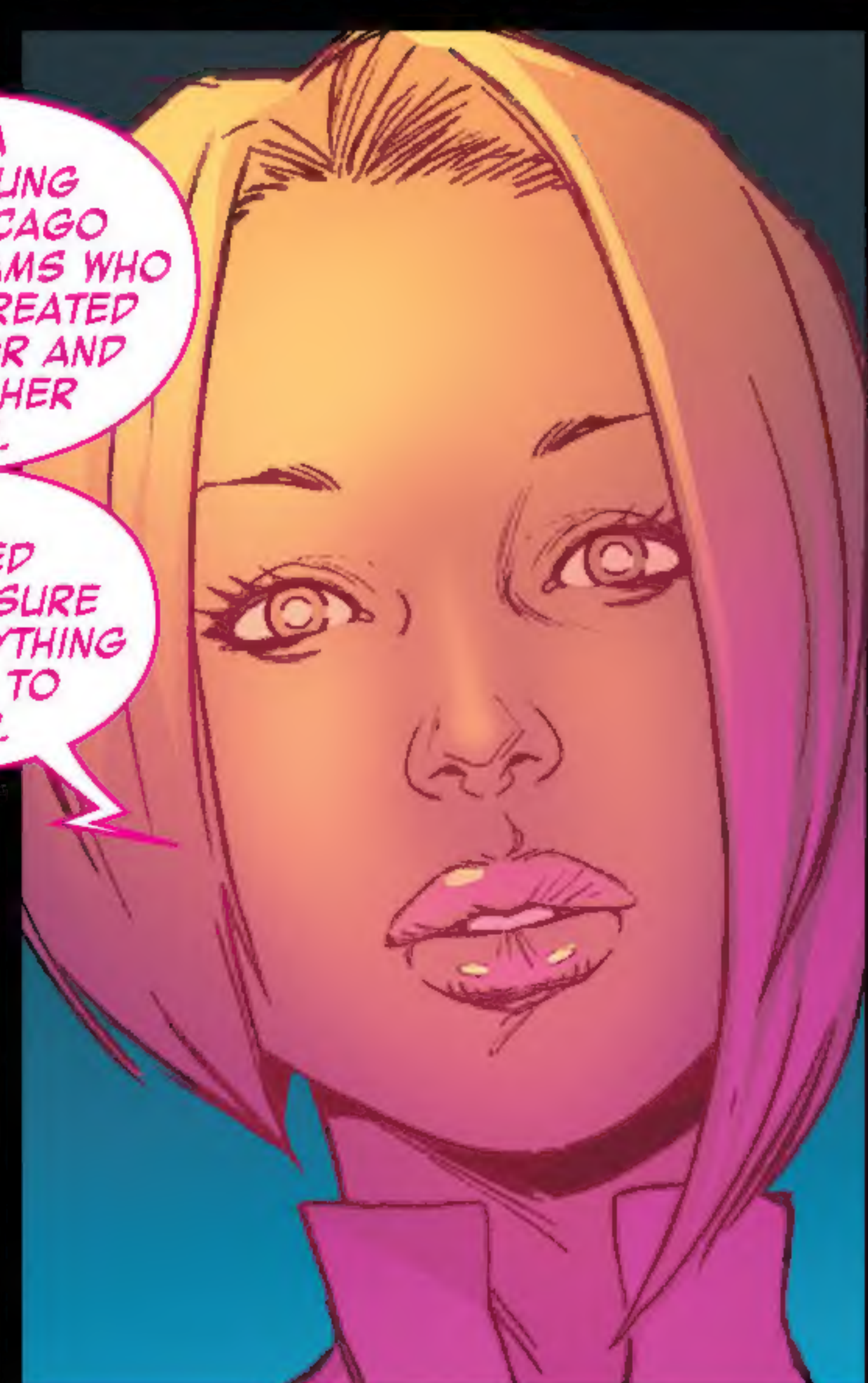


WELL, MA'AM...

...TONY ACTUALLY ALREADY PUT THAT INTO PLACE.

FRIDAY...

HOW SO?



THERE'S A BRILLIANT YOUNG WOMAN IN CHICAGO NAMED RIRI WILLIAMS WHO HAD ALREADY CREATED HER OWN ARMOR AND STARTED ON HER OWN PATH.

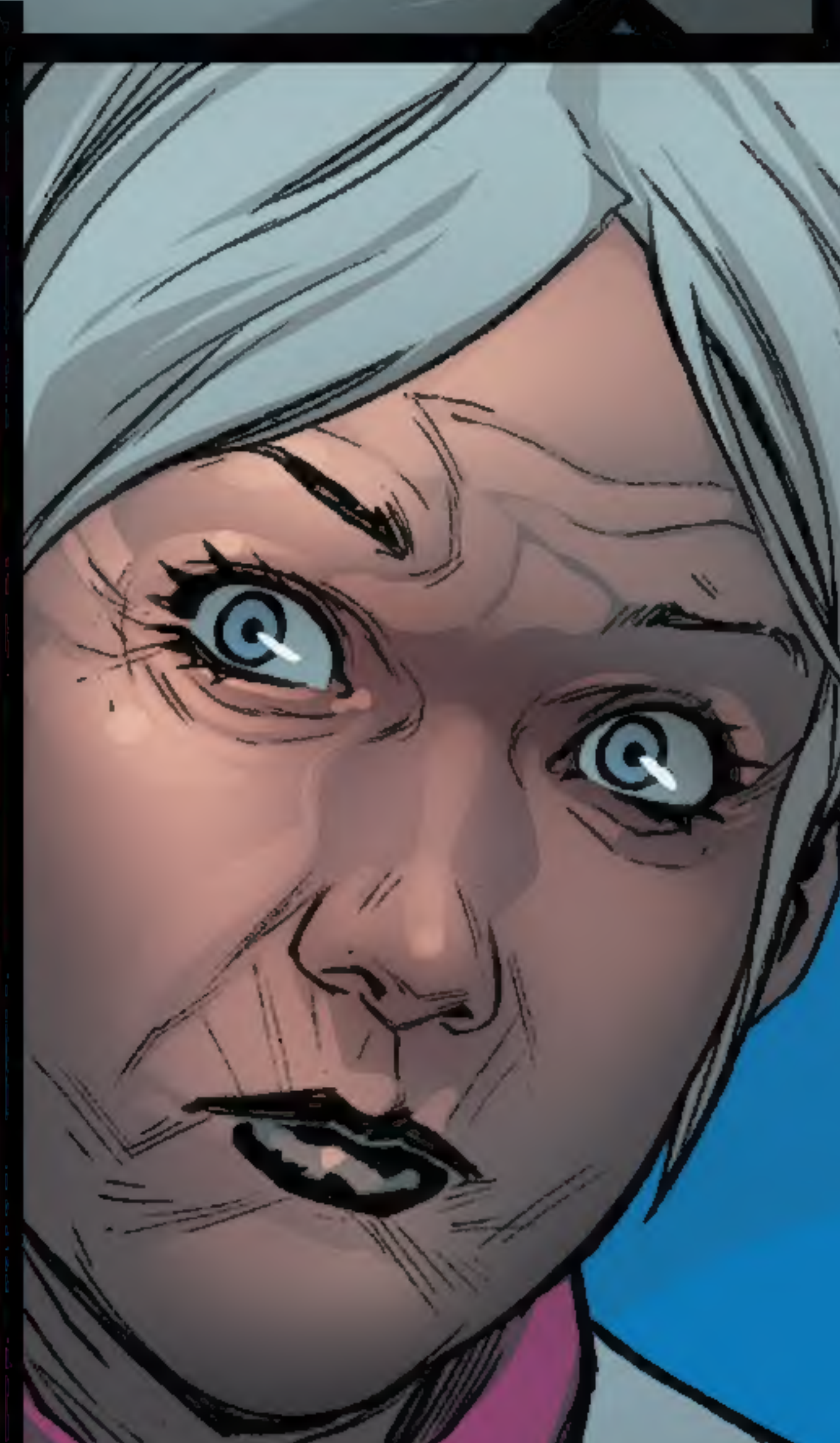
TONY INSTRUCTED ME TO MAKE SURE SHE HAS EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS TO SUCCEED.



DOES SHE HAVE EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS TO SUCCEED?



WELL...  
...HE ALREADY SENT HIS FAVORITE THING...





"...HE SENT HIMSELF."

# CHICAGO. RIRI'S GARAGE.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT BREATHING BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HOLOGRAPHIC CONSTRUCT IN THE FORM OF TONY STARK--

--BUT I SWEAR TO GOD IT FEELS LIKE YOU ARE BREATHING ON MY NECK.

MAYBE YOU'RE HAVING A STROKE.

I'M FIFTEEN.

UNBORN BABIES CAN HAVE STROKES.

THANK YOU FOR THAT.

THIS NEW MODEL IS COMING ALONG.

COMPRESSORS ARE OFF.

BY FOUR PERCENT. I DIDN'T WANT TO BE RUDE. I WAS GOING TO ADJUST THEM WHEN YOU WEREN'T LOOKING.

HEY...

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL MYSELF.

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING LIKE A SUPER HERO NAME?

EXACTLY LIKE A SUPER HERO NAME...

I ASSUMED "IRON GIRL."



"IRON WOMAN"?



YOU REALLY THINK I COULDN'T THINK OF THAT MYSELF?



I'M REALLY NOT A FAN OF SEXUAL IDENTITY AS A QUALIFIER.

SHE-HULK.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME AS IRON MAN.

IT'S JUST AN IDENTIFIER.



IT'S AN ANTIQUATED AND WEIRD LINE IN THE SAND.

LIKE "BEST ACTOR" AND "BEST ACTRESS"... WHY ARE THEY SEPARATE?



FE-MALE.



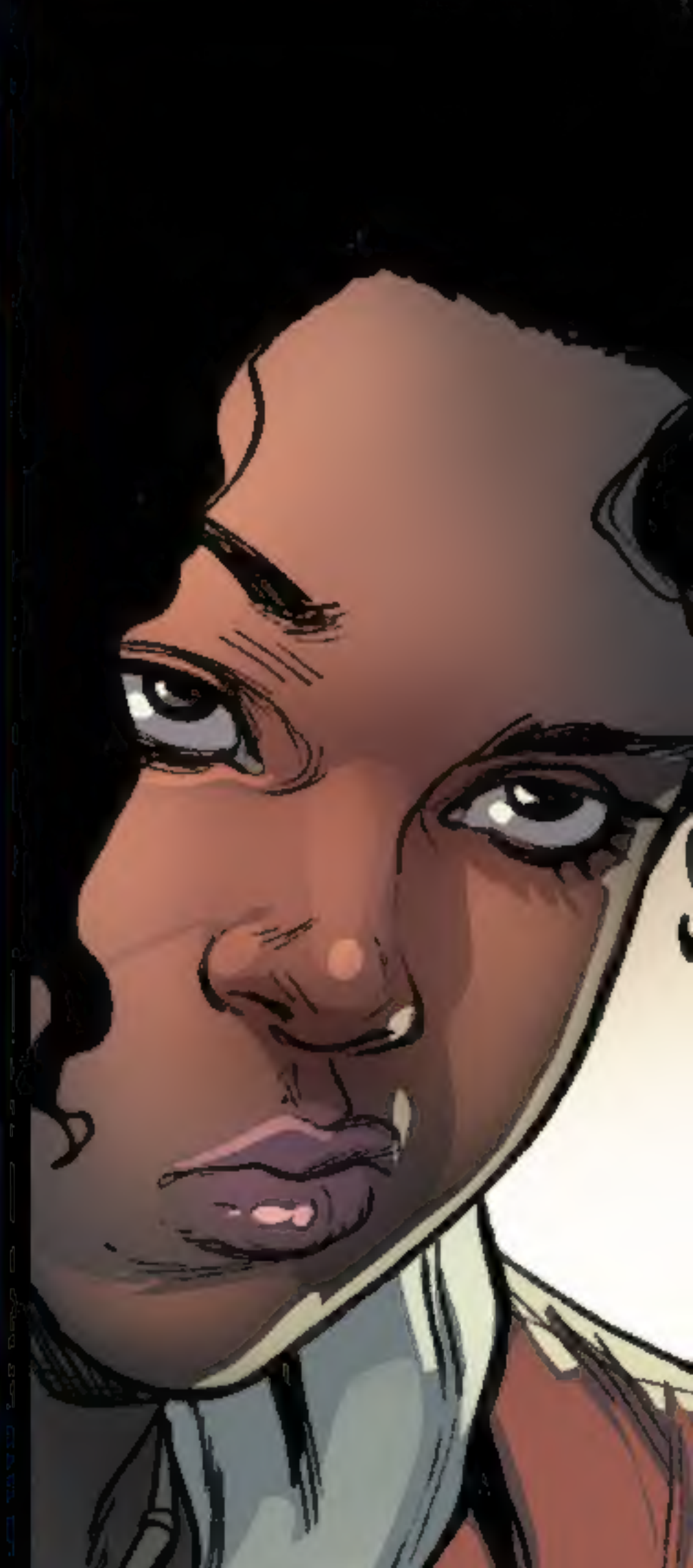
WHAT?



FE IS THE SYMBOL FOR IRON.



FE-MALE AS IN YOU ARE A--







THEN DON'T ASK ME!

I'M AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRYING TO KEEP YOU FROM BLOWING YOURSELF UP.

ASK A HUMAN PERSON.

ASK A FRIEND.



DO YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS?

DO YOU HAVE AN OFF SWITCH?

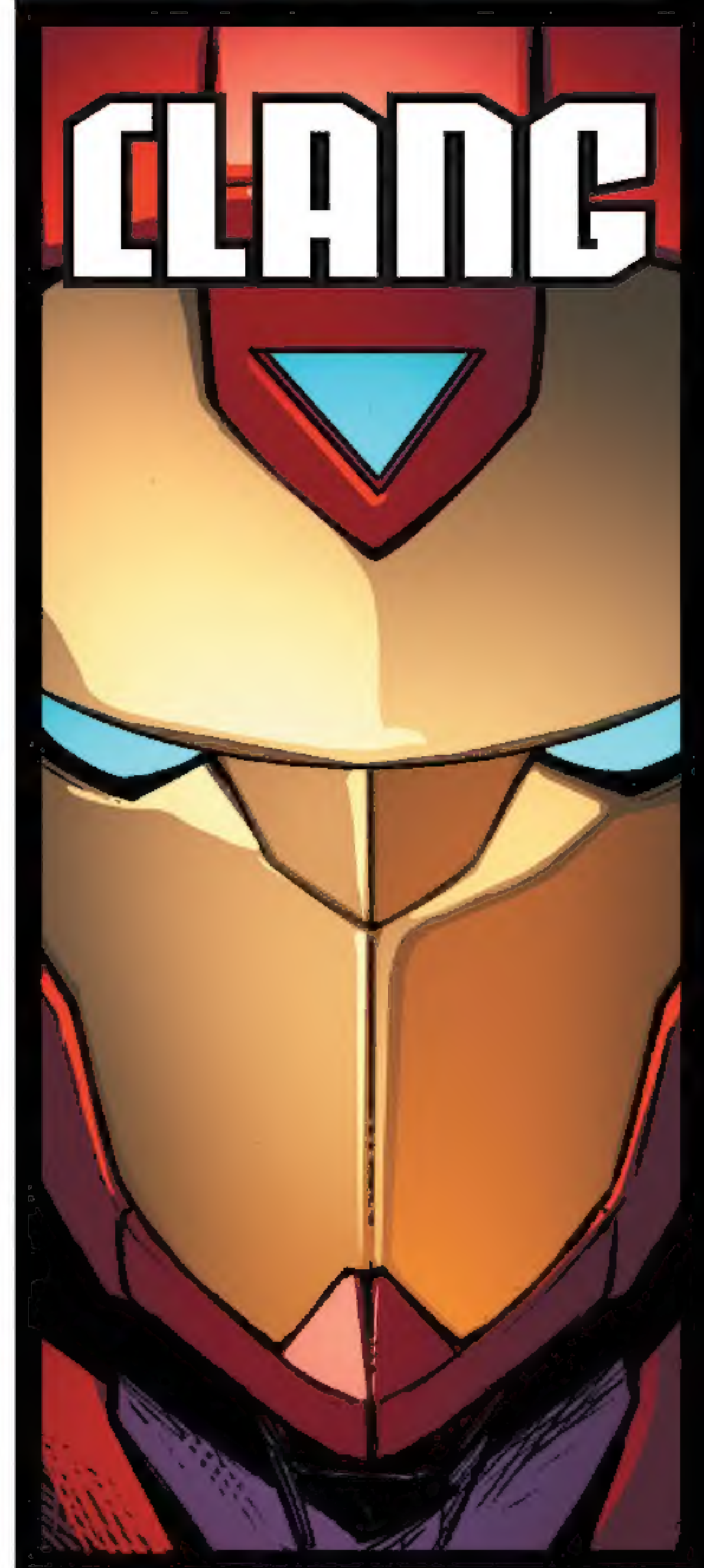
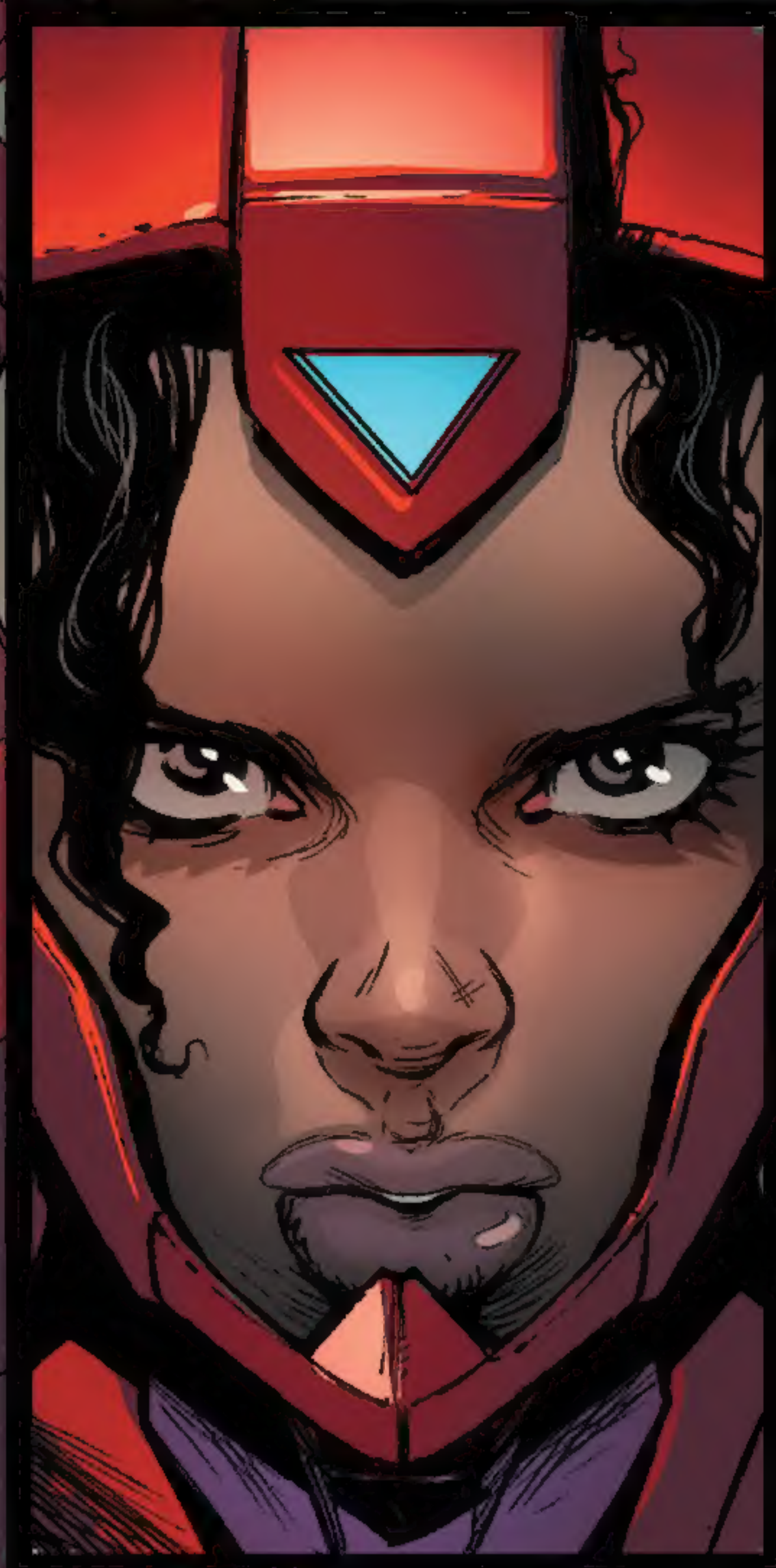
I NEVER SEE ANY OTHER KIDS AROUND.

THERE'S NOTHING IN YOUR TEXTS.



DON'T GO THROUGH MY TEXTS!

NO ONE SINCE THIS NATALIE WASHINGTON.



CLANC





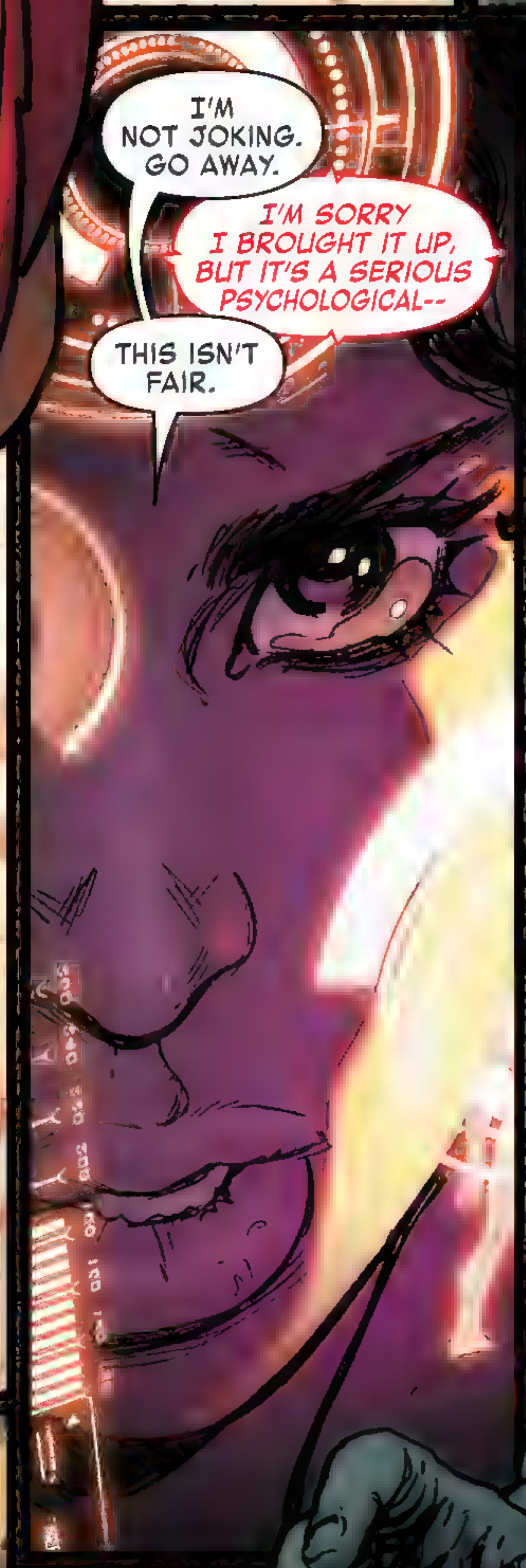
HAVE  
YOU NOT HAD  
A FRIEND SINCE  
SHE DIED?

IT'S BEEN  
YEARS.

THAT'S NOT  
HEALTHY.

GO  
AWAY!

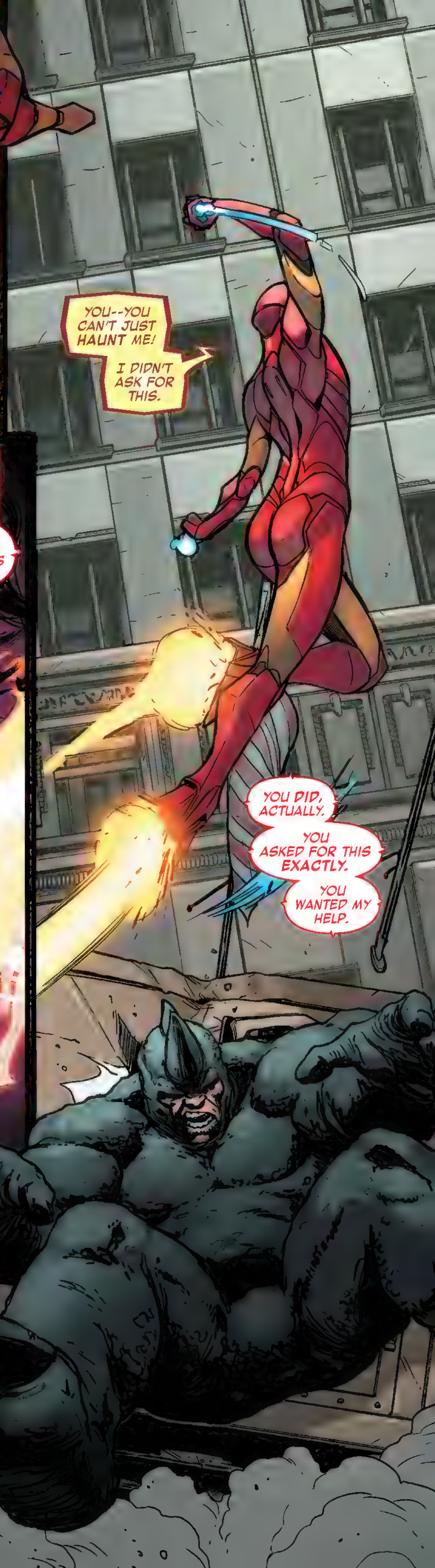
I MEAN  
IT.



I'M  
NOT JOKING.  
GO AWAY.

I'M SORRY  
I BROUGHT IT UP,  
BUT IT'S A SERIOUS  
PSYCHOLOGICAL--

THIS ISN'T  
FAIR.



YOU--YOU  
CAN'T JUST  
HAUNT ME!

I DIDN'T  
ASK FOR  
THIS.

YOU DID,  
ACTUALLY.

YOU  
ASKED FOR THIS  
EXACTLY.

YOU  
WANTED MY  
HELP.





YOU WANTED  
ME TO GET YOU  
AN A.I. TO HELP YOU  
WITH YOUR SUIT'S  
FUNCTIONS.

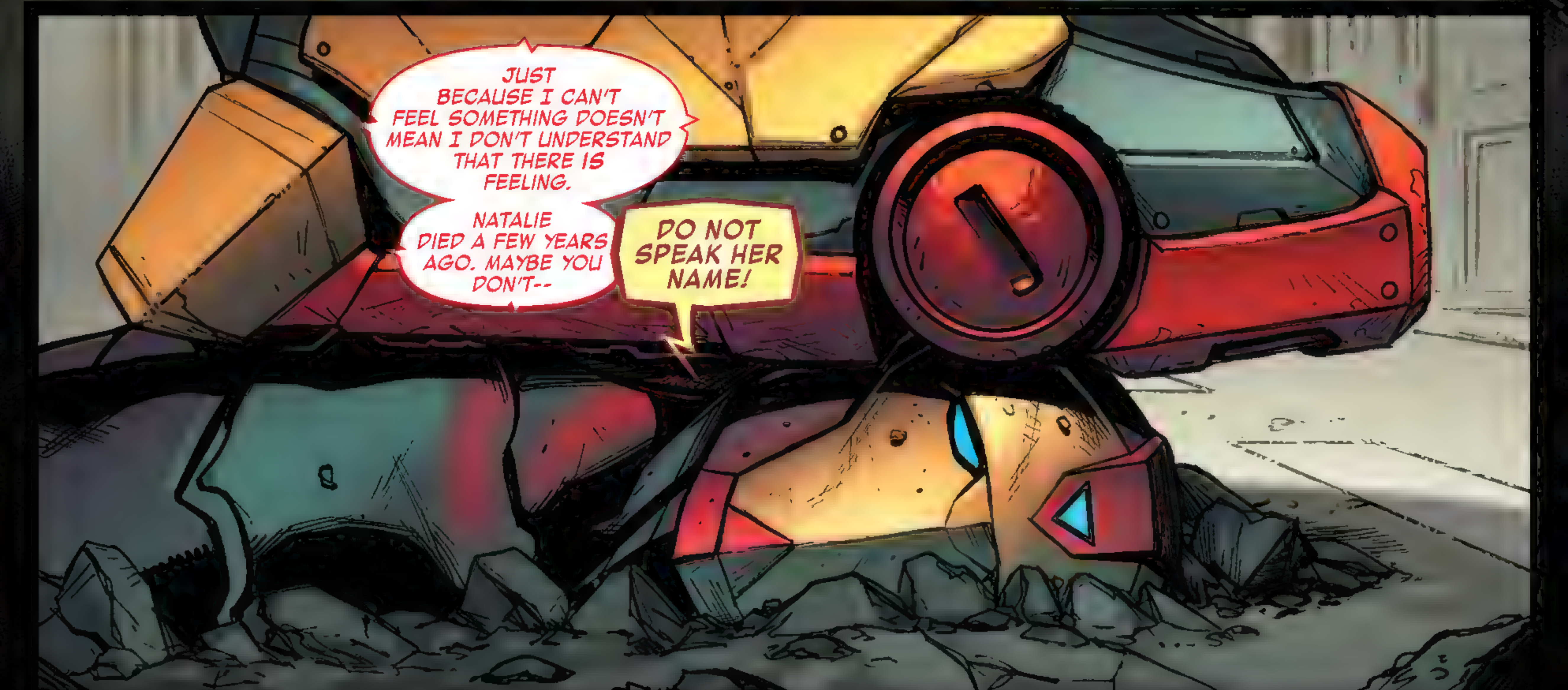
THIS IS  
ME. THIS  
IS IT.

YOU  
ASKED FOR  
THIS.

YOU'RE A  
PROGRAM! YOU  
DON'T UNDERSTAND  
HUMAN EMOTIONS!

YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND--  
AGH!

THIS THING IS  
SO GROSS.



JUST  
BECAUSE I CAN'T  
FEEL SOMETHING DOESN'T  
MEAN I DON'T UNDERSTAND  
THAT THERE IS  
FEELING.

NATALIE  
DIED A FEW YEARS  
AGO. MAYBE YOU  
DON'T--

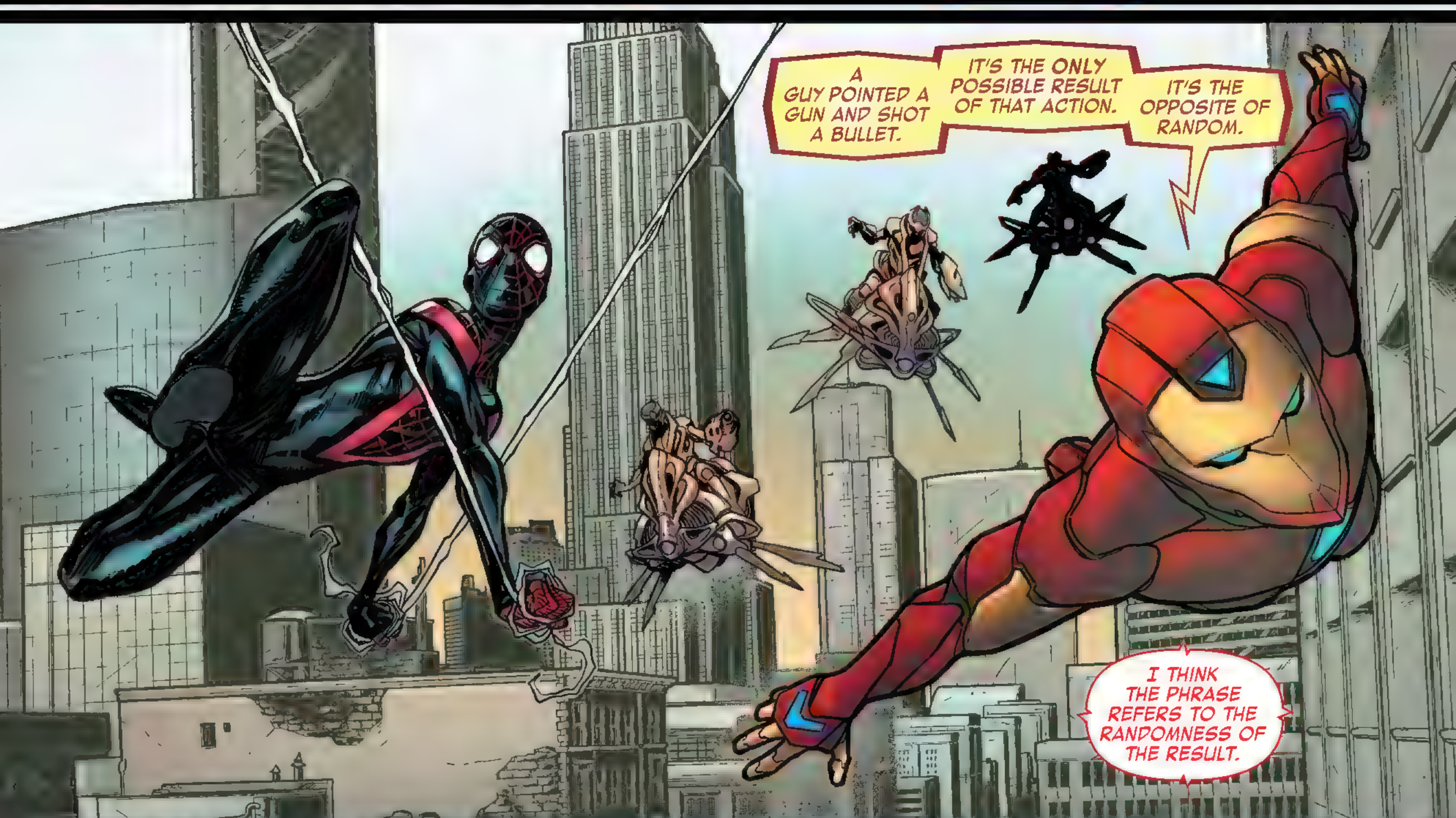
DO NOT  
SPEAK HER  
NAME!





OKAY, BUT SHE DIED OF A GUNSHOT.  
RANDOM GUN VIOLENCE.

YEAH, SURE, RANDOM.  
IT WASN'T? THE REPORT SAYS--  
THE PHRASE IS SICKENING. IT'S NOT RANDOM.



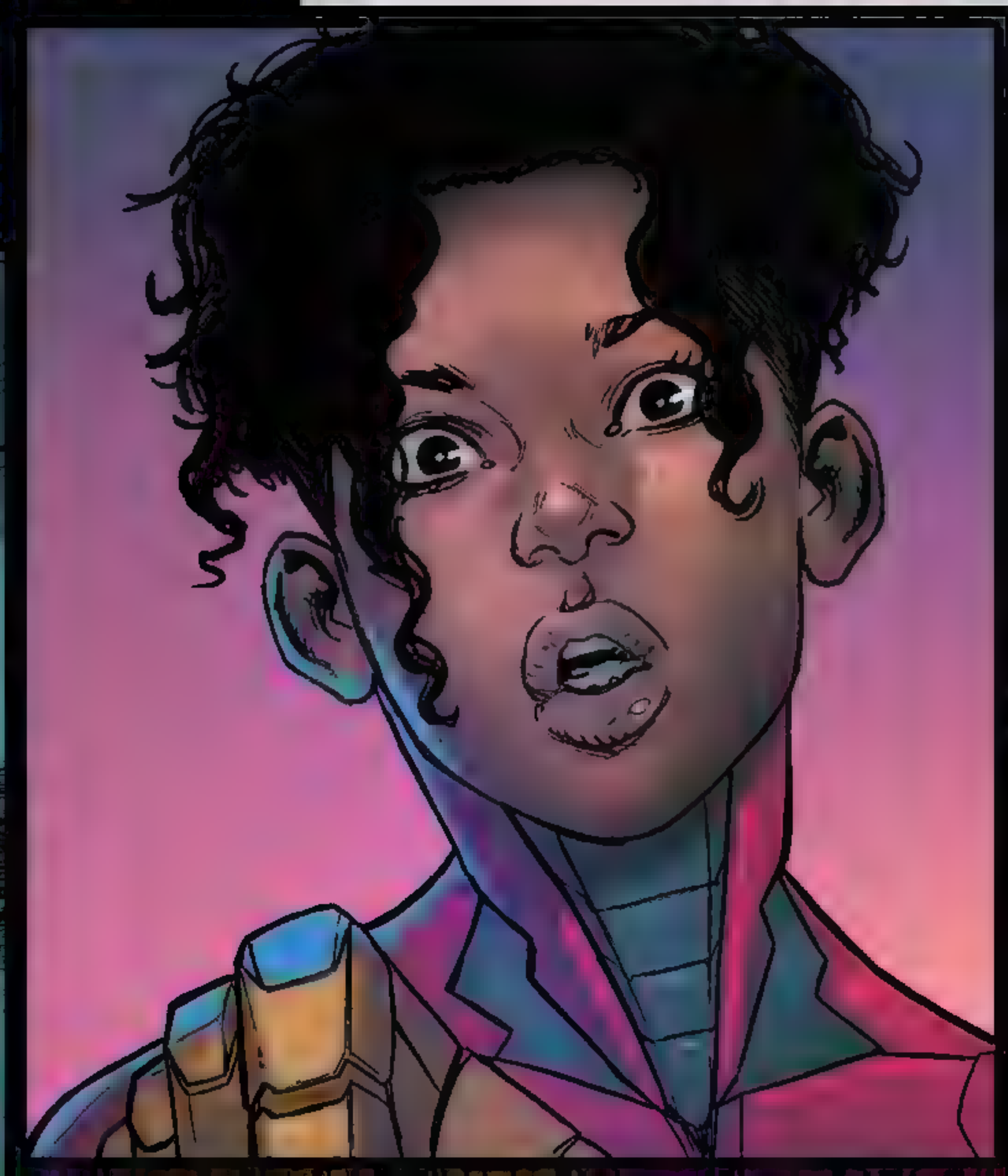
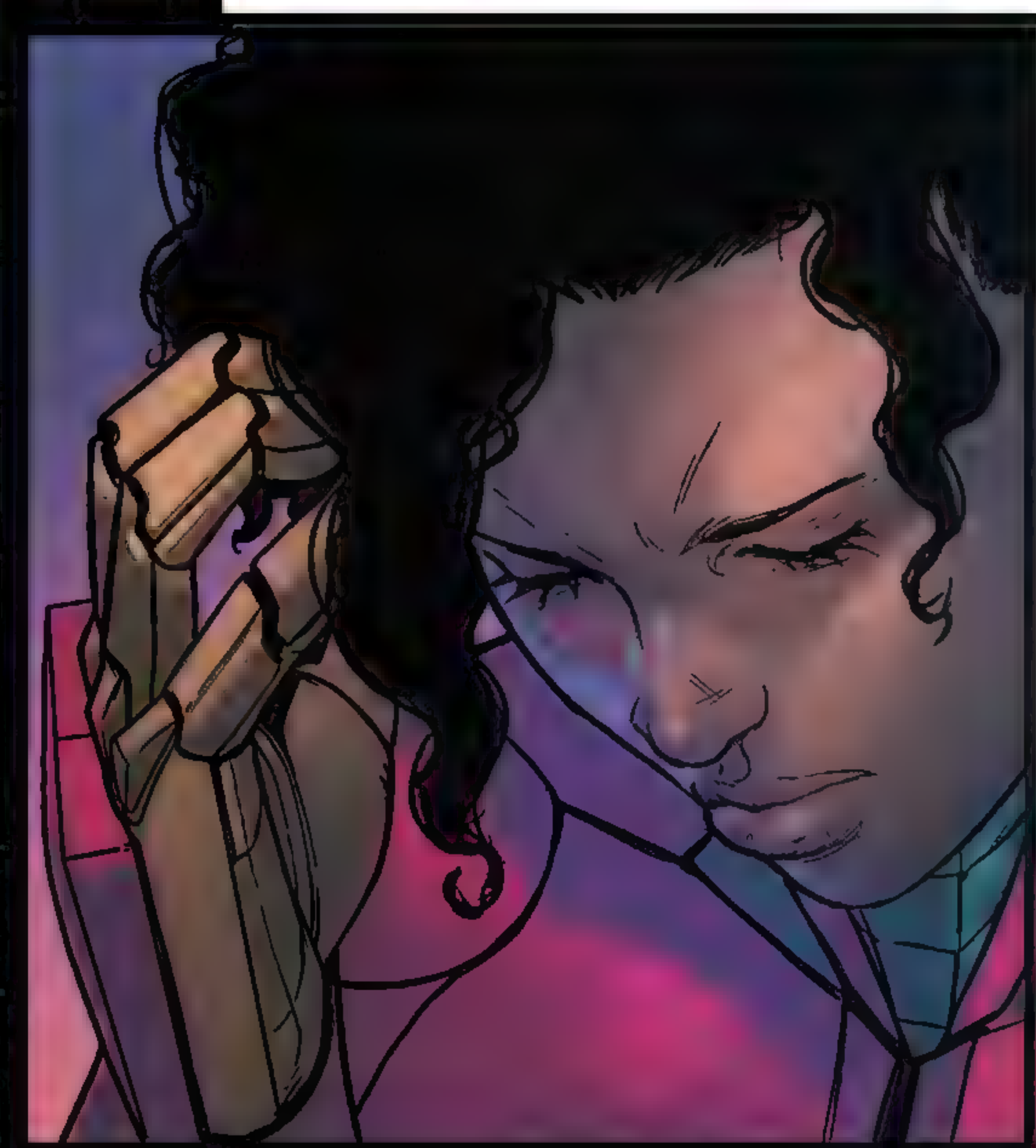
A GUY POINTED A GUN AND SHOT A BULLET.  
IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE RESULT OF THAT ACTION.  
IT'S THE OPPOSITE OF RANDOM.

I THINK THE PHRASE REFERS TO THE RANDOMNESS OF THE RESULT.



AND YOU THINK IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOU?









FIRST OF ALL, I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU SINCE NEW YORK CITY AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE.

YOU NEED TO WORK ON THAT.

AND WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?

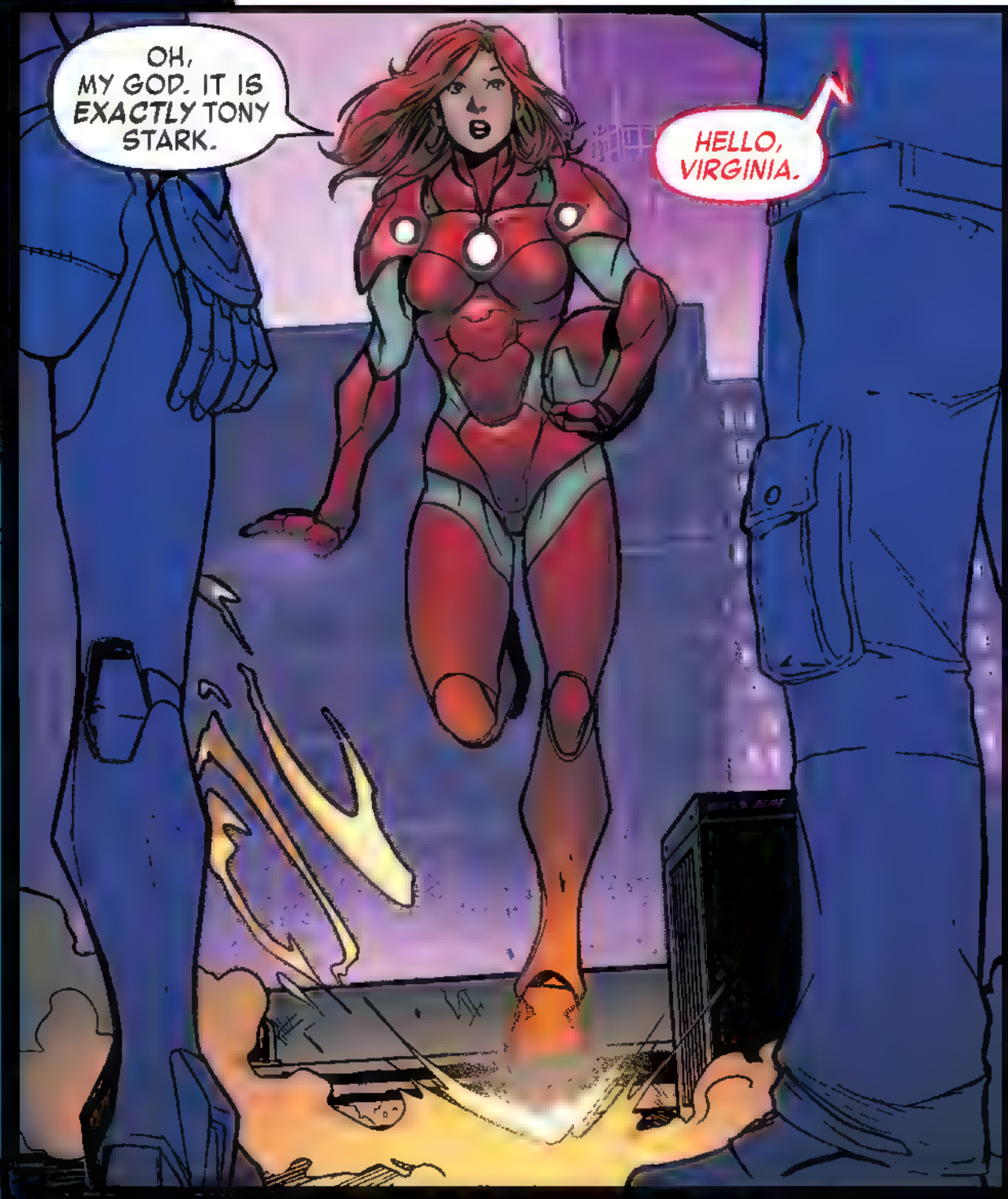
WHAT?



THAT.  
OH, THAT'S MY A.I. UNIT.

WHY DOES IT LOOK EXACTLY LIKE TONY STARK?

BECAUSE TONY STARK MADE IT.



OH, MY GOD. IT IS EXACTLY TONY STARK.

HELLO, VIRGINIA.



NO.  
I AM-- NO.  
I AM NOT TALKING TO A HOLOGRAM OF TONY STARK.

IT IS NICE TO SEE YOU.



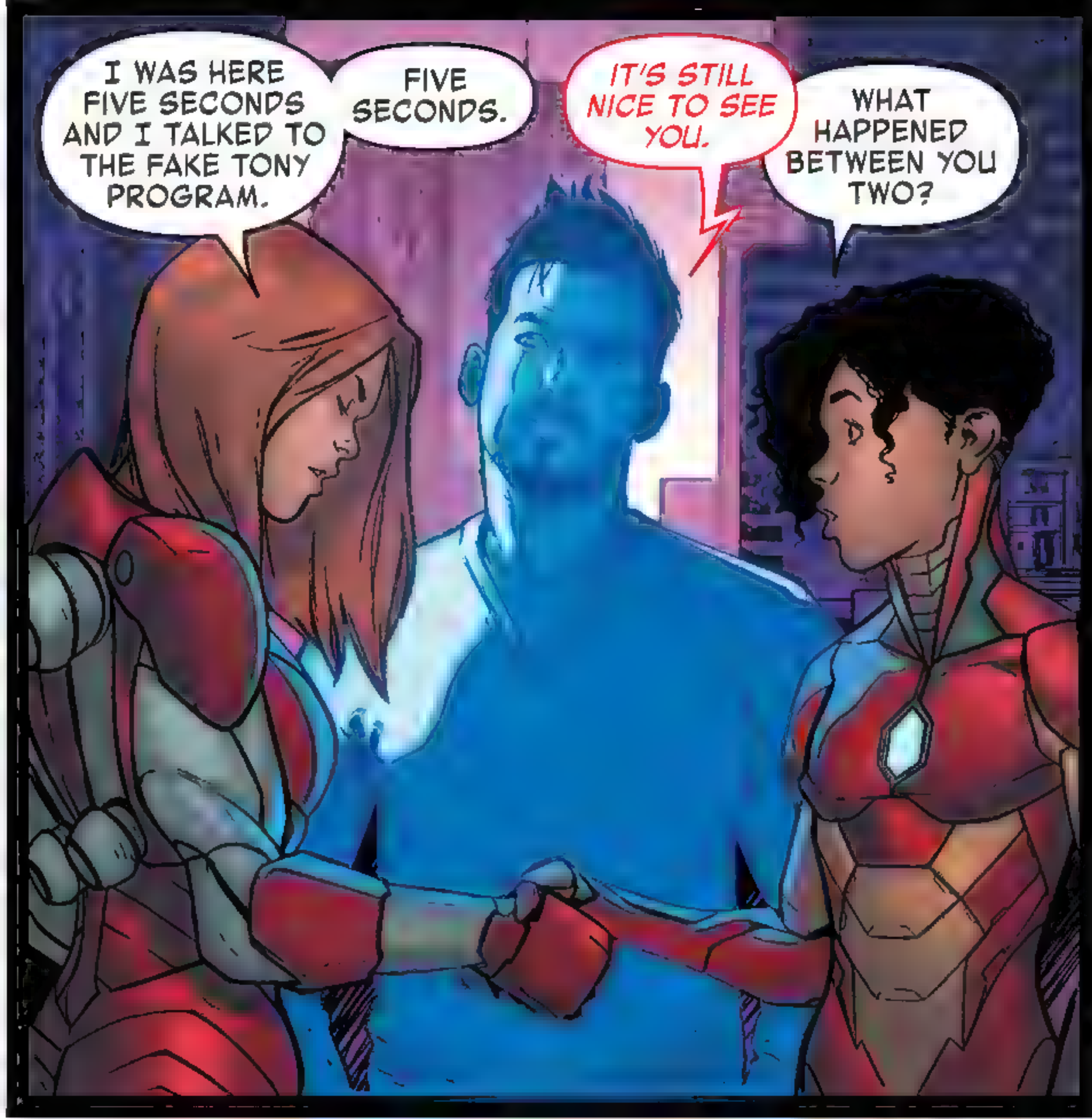
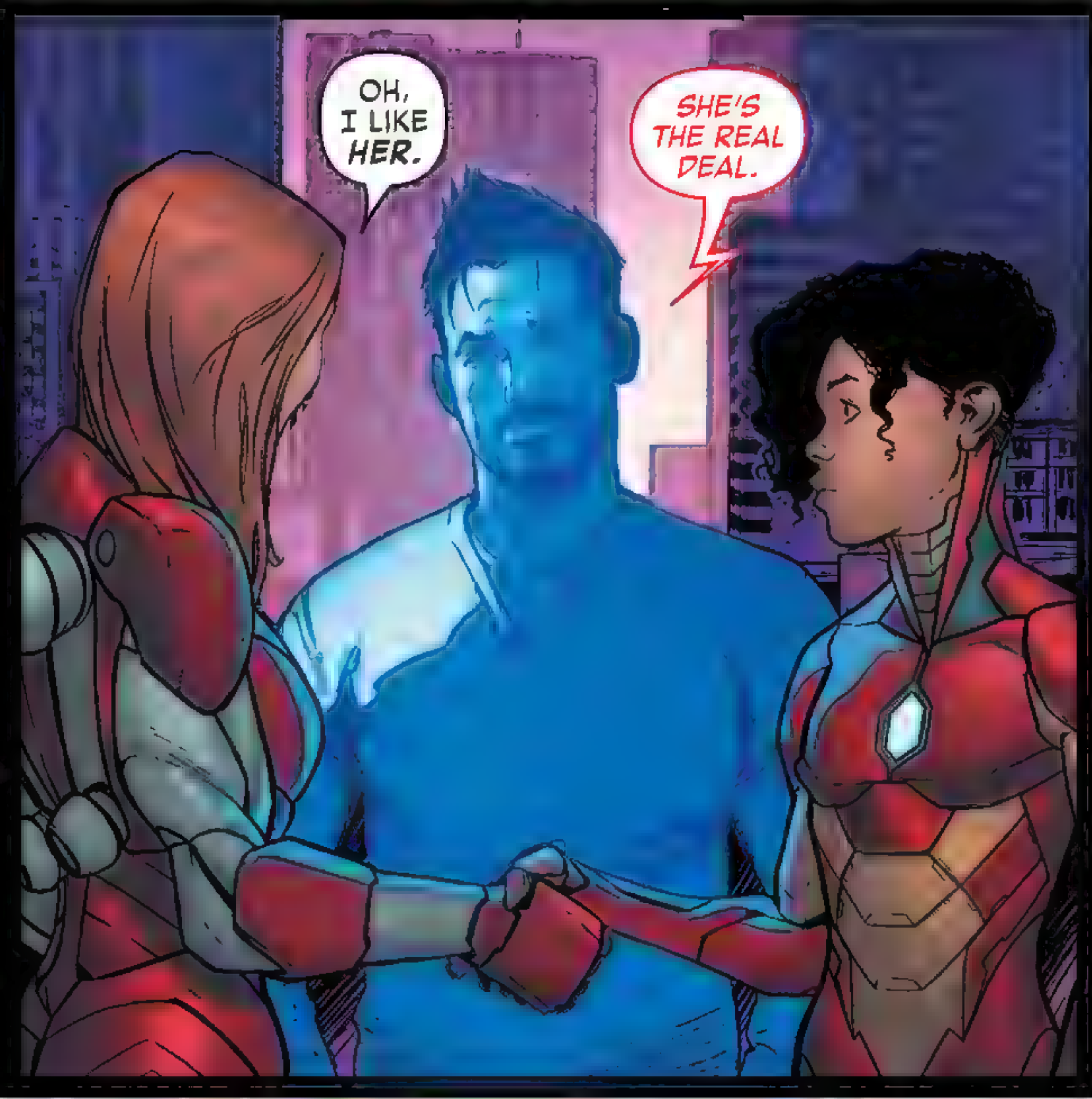
CAN YOU STOP HIM FROM TALKING?

NO! I WOULD PAY SOMEONE MONEY TO.

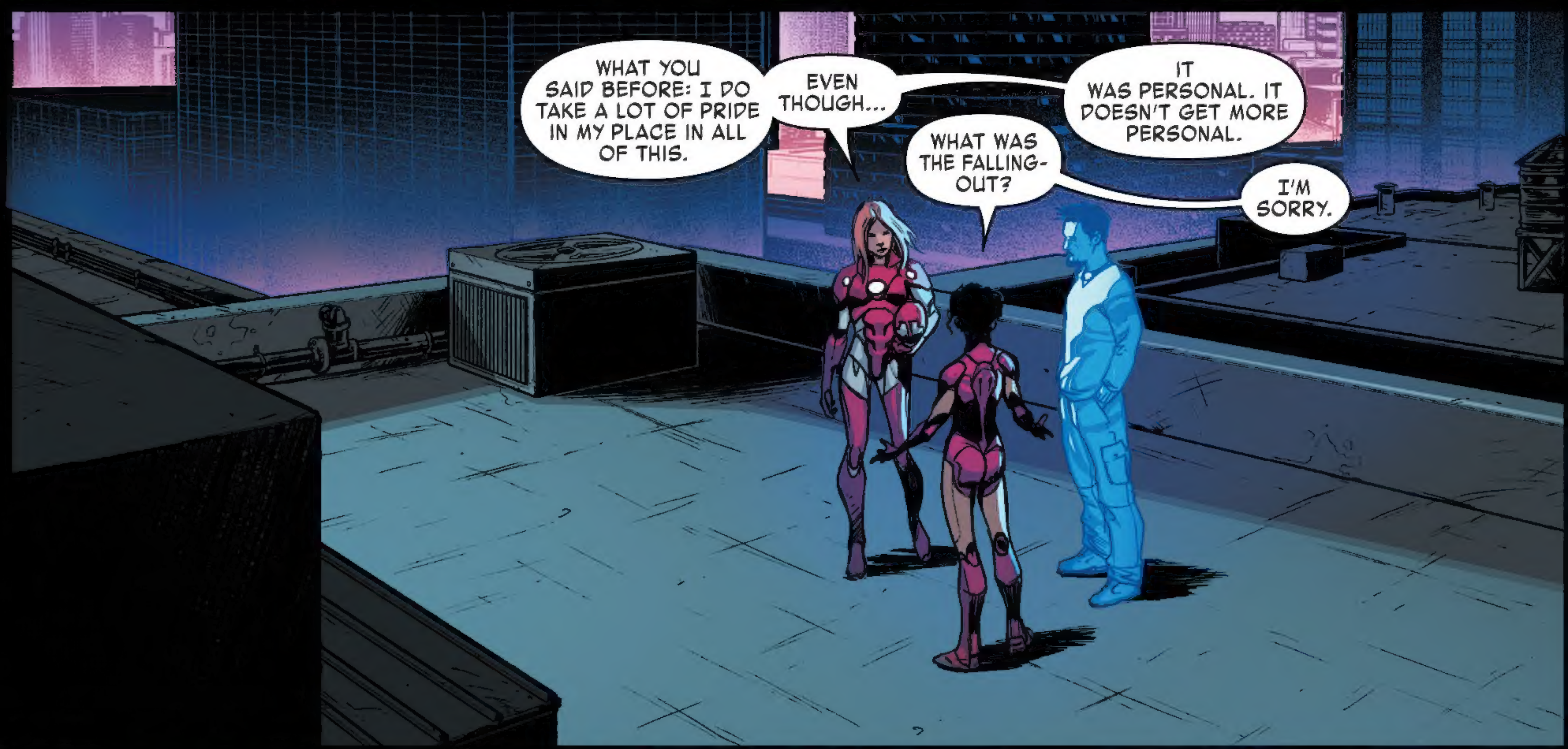
AND THE THING OF IT IS, TONY THINKS CREATING AN A.I. THAT IS EXACTLY LIKE HIM WITH NO MUTE BUTTON IS A GIFT.

WHAT--WHY--WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?









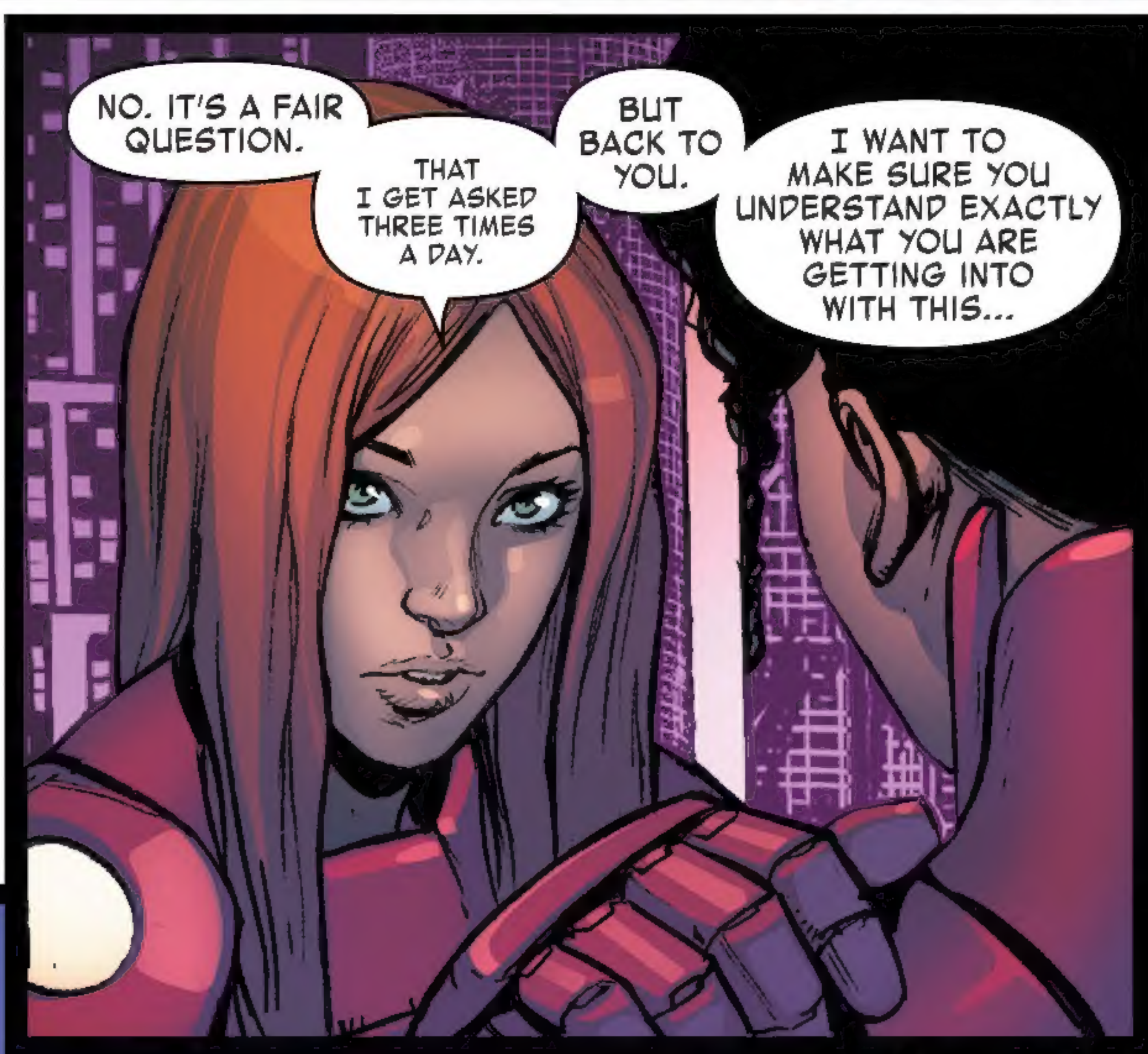
WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE: I DO TAKE A LOT OF PRIDE IN MY PLACE IN ALL OF THIS.

EVEN THOUGH...

IT WAS PERSONAL. IT DOESN'T GET MORE PERSONAL.

I'M SORRY.

WHAT WAS THE FALLING-OUT?



NO. IT'S A FAIR QUESTION.

THAT I GET ASKED THREE TIMES A DAY.

BUT BACK TO YOU.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE GETTING INTO WITH THIS...



...BECAUSE THIS IS A LIFE WHERE THERE IS LITERALLY DANGER AT EVERY--

--TURN.

UM...

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?



THIS ISN'T ME.



IS THIS A TEST?

THIS IS... REAL.





THIS IS  
TROUBLE.

TO BE CONTINUED...



# NEXT ISSUE:



# THE TECHNO GOLEM

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